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INSIDE
EIGHT PAGES
FROM SUNDAY'S
The New York Times
WEEKLY REVIEW

November CPI up 0.6%; 1996 expected to hit 10.6%

DAVID HARRIS

THE consumer price index rose 0.6 percent in November, to 142.0 points, the Central Bureau of Statistics announced yesterday. It was the sixth consecutive month in which the CPI has increased by less than 1%.

Since January, inflation has totaled 9.7%, and in the year to November was running at 11%. CBS figures suggest inflation will reach 10.58% in 1996, compared to the Finance Ministry's predicted 8-10%.

The main element of last month's increase was in housing, up 1%, and comprising some 33% of the entire November CPI increase. Apartment prices rose 1.1%, with rented properties becoming 0.5% more expensive.

Furnishings and household items rose in price some 0.9%, principally through increases in the costs of electric heaters (3.6%), cooking implements (1.3%) and children's furnishings (1%).

The clothing and footwear index rose 3.9%, the CBS attributing this to the start of the winter season. Transportation and communications prices went up 0.4%, mainly because of increases in the cost of - up 2.2% for vehicles - and 3% rise in train fares.

The cost of health services rose and food prices (excluding and vegetables) increased

the other hand, there were falls in the price of fruit andables (1.4%). Fresh fruit & vegetables rising in price by 1.5% is main factors likely to affect December CPI are the increase electricity tariffs and a relative-small seasonal increase in clothing and footwear prices.



A Palestinian holds up a poster of Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine leader George Habash at a rally in Nablus yesterday. Two PFLP members are suspected of killing Etta Tzur and her son Ephraim in last week's drive-by shooting near Beit El. (AP)

Fighting continues in south Lebanon

DAVID RUDGE

FIGHTING continued in south Lebanon yesterday after a weekend Katyusha rocket attack on the Galilee and an abortive Hizbullah ambush, in which a senior IDF officer and a soldier were lightly hurt.

IAF warplanes struck at Hizbullah targets in the southern Bekaa Valley, which is controlled by Syrian forces, and IDF troops shot and killed a second gunman who had been involved in Saturday's ambush attempt.

Brig-Gen. Eli Amitai, head of the IDF's Lebanese Liaison Unit, and a radioman in the convoy were lightly wounded when it was hit by the gunmen. Their wounds did not prevent them from participating in the ensuing gunfight in which the soldiers charged the attackers, killing one and wounding another.

The wounded gunman was discovered later in a search of the scene of the clash yesterday and was killed when he tried to resist capture.

Amitai returned to the scene, on the Ishiyeh-Rehan road in the eastern sector of the zone, with OC Northern Command Maj-Gen. Amiram Levine and other senior officers. Levine told reporters it is clear Hizbullah was not responsible for the Katyusha rocket attack on Western Galilee on Friday night.

"About three rockets were fired from the area of Kleilah village [north of the zone] at Western Galilee. The firing was perpetrated by one or more Palestinian groups, either the PFLP of George Habash or Jibril's organization with the participation of Amal activists," said Levine.

"In any case, the area is under

the control of the Lebanese government and the Lebanese Army, and this is the most flagrant breach of the Grapes of Wrath understandings," he said.

Levine emphasized what he described as the "enormous difference" between "accidental and regrettable" incidents in which Lebanese civilians were harmed as a result of IDF return fire and terrorist rocket attacks deliberately aimed at civilian targets in the Galilee.

Israel has complained to the Grapes of Wrath monitoring committee over the rocket attacks. The committee is to meet at UNIFIL headquarters in Nakoura today to discuss the matter.

Levine said the Hizbullah ambush on the IDF convoy had been carefully planned and executed by two or three squads of gunmen, hiding among rocks and trees lining the road.

He praised the fast, professional response of the officers and soldiers in the patrol, who counter-attacked immediately, despite a withering hail of machine gun, light weapons, and anti-tank fire.

"Neither [Amitai or the radioman] even noticed their injuries and continued the charge and searches until nightfall, and only afterwards were they sent for examination and treatment," said Levine. "This is how to act and this is how we expect our officers and our soldiers to act," he said.

"The soldiers acted quickly, with determination and courage... The force charged and killed one of the gunmen, who had fired from a distance of about 150 meters. Another squad had fired from

about 250 meters away."

He said the Hizbullah attackers had been well equipped with LAW anti-tank missile launchers, machine guns, grenades, and automatic rifles. They were dressed in military uniforms, with flak jackets and helmets.

The aim of the gunmen, he said, is to carry out hit-and-run operations and avoid close contact as much as possible. "They left behind the dead terrorist and the one who was wounded... as well as all the heavy equipment that might have hindered their retreat," said Amitai.

Meanwhile, IAF warplanes

struck at Hizbullah targets in the southern Bekaa Valley, primarily at hillside hideaways near the villages of Ein al-Tineh and Mashghara. The IDF Spokesman said all the planes returned safely.

Reports from Lebanon said two jets carried out three sorties, firing over six rockets at the targets. Hizbullah denied suffering any casualties in the air raid.

Shortly afterward, Hizbullah gunmen fired dozens of mortar rounds at IDF and SLA positions in the central and eastern sectors of the zone, without causing casualties or damage. IDF and SLA gunners returned fire, with the exchanges continuing sporadically until late evening.

PM, Arafat talk to ease tensions

DAVID MAKOVSKY and ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

PALESTINIAN Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat phoned Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu last night in an apparent bid by both to calm tensions in the aftermath of recent violence, a cabinet decision to extend financial incentives to settlers, and charges by both sides that the other is out to undermine peace.

Arafat's call came as top negotiator Yitzhak Molcho and cabinet secretary Danny Naveh met last night with Arafat in Gaza.

According to a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office last night, the two sides discussed prospects of moving forward on the Hebron talks. Earlier in the

day Arafat reportedly had rejected a visit by Molcho to Gaza, saying it would not lead anywhere.

Molcho apparently briefed Arafat on Friday's cabinet decision to provide financial incentives to settlers.

Foreign Minister David Levy is to brief the Jordanians on this decision in Amman tomorrow and Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai is to travel to Cairo for the same purpose on Wednesday.

US Consul-General Edward Abington is expected to meet with Arafat today.

During the phone call, Arafat expressed sorrow for the killings on the Hebron talks. Earlier in the

(Continued on Page 9)

Much ado about a 'fence'

HERB KEINON

A NEW fence that Channel 1 reported was put up yesterday in Beit El as the first step toward new building in the settlement was dismissed by settlement leaders as being only an eruv, an halachic device that enables observant Jews to carry on Shabbat.

Channel 1 said that the fence, erected yesterday, was meant to define an area near the adjacent army base where construction will soon take place.

But Yoav Barak, secretary of Beit El Bet, said that he knows of no plans to build at the site, and that he believes the fence was only an eruv. He said that eruvim can take all types of forms, including a fence, and are not always a piece of wire tied toward the top of high poles.

Aharon Domb, the general secretary of the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza, said that at first the fence was a "local initiative" by a couple of residents who wanted to create the impression that construction in the settlement is taking place.

A few minutes later Domb amended his comments, saying that after looking into the matter further, he found the fence is indeed an eruv. He sent messages to reporters saying, "An eruv is meant to enable carrying objects on Shabbat, and not for the purpose of conquering the land."

Children seek to put mom on ice

THE strange tale of a brother and sister who wish to freeze their mother's body, in case scientists discover a way to bring back the dead, emerged in Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court yesterday.

Moshe Be'eri, son of the deceased Miriam Astrovitz, explained the reason for the extraordinary request.

"We love our mother and find it hard to part from her," he said after the hearing. "We had a special relationship with her and this is the only way to bring her back to life."

When asked how his mother could rise from the dead, he answered: "At the moment it is impossible, but in the future, with the help of modern science, it will

be possible."

Now Moshe and his sister Rachel have two days to determine whether the Alaskan authorities will agree to bury Astrovitz in an iceberg in Alaska.

Astrovitz died on December 3, and since then her body has been kept in a refrigerator in Wolfson Hospital. If the Alaskan arrangement does not work out, the siblings wish to bury her here in formalin and ice to preserve her body, in the hope that one day scientists may find the formula to bring her back to life. The court ruled that all sides should examine the possibility of burying Astrovitz in formalin and ice until a final decision

is made.

The matter was brought up by police, who asked Judge Amiram Binayami to issue a court order, demanding that the deceased's family bury her in the traditional Jewish fashion.

During a somewhat stormy debate, Health Ministry representative Dr. Avital Cohen insisted that she would not agree to the body being kept on ice here.

"It is impossible to freeze the body now because too much time has elapsed since the time of death," she argued. "Bodies should be frozen directly after death."

Israeli law states that bodies must be buried within 48 hours of death. (Continued on Page 9)

Israel beats Luxembourg 1-0

DEREK FAITAL

A LATE first-half goal by veteran Eli Ohana was enough to secure a vital 1-0 Israeli victory over Luxembourg in last night's Group 5 World Cup qualifier played at the National Stadium Ramat Gan. The three points gained propelled Israel back into second position in the group. Story, Page 10

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Settler benefits include education, housing, business aid

BACKGROUND
HERB KEINON

FREE preschools for the kids, a larger mortgage for the first home of young married couples and a 20 percent grant for the rich uncle setting up a factory across the Green Line are among the benefits residents of the settlements once again will enjoy as a result of the government's decision to declare all settlements areas of top national priority.

The basket of benefits that all the settlements will now receive can be broken into three categories: education, housing, and business. A 7% tax break that comes with the status of National Priority Area A has long been enjoyed by the settlements.

Regarding the business benefits, an investor who sets up a successful business will be eligible for either a 30% grant or receive a tax exemption for 10 years.

As far as mortgages, people buying homes in the settlements will receive a larger mortgage with better terms. In addition, these loans, those going to selected settlements also will receive an additional grant. The mortgages' exact sums have not yet been determined and the settlements are likely to be sub-classified, so that someone going to live in Givat Ze'ev, just north of Jerusalem, will not receive the same amount as someone opting to live in Bracha, in the heart of Samaria.

Regarding education, the new status means that residents will pay only a symbolic fee of about NIS 25 a month to send their children to preschool, instead of nearly NIS 400 a month, and that for day care they will pay NIS 350 instead of NIS 850.

In addition, the Education Ministry will subsidize extracurricular classes for children from settlements, even if they do not have the number of children that is required for these classes. For instance, if the Education Ministry generally subsidizes piano classes if there are 20 children, they will do so in the settlements even if there are 10 children.

In addition, teachers who teach in the settlements will receive additional years of tenure for teaching beyond the Green Line.

Incentives to settlers show new priorities

COMMENT
HERB KEINON

THE government's decision to classify the settlements as national priority areas, making them once again eligible for a large basket of financial incentives, is much more important than merely the sum of "how much the settlers are getting."

This decision is a policy statement that signals to the settlers that they are important; to ideological Israelis that it is worth their while to move across the Green Line; to the world that Israel is not going to give up any of the settlements so easily.

It was no coincidence that one of the first things the Rabin government did when it swept into power in 1992 was to remove this status from the settlements. It was part of the government's reordering of priorities and an important signal to the Americans and the rest of the world that the days of coddling the settlements were over. This was almost as important a message as the decision to freeze construction.

Prior to the election of the Labor government in 1992, nearly all of Judea, Samaria, Gaza and the Golan benefited from the classification as National Priority Area A. But soon after the elections, Shimon Peres, then director-general of the Prime Minister's Office, had a team look at a map of the country and determine anew which areas would get the benefits. Many, but not all, of the settlements were left out of the plan.

Under the Sheves Plan, the Golan, Gush Katif, the Jordan Valley, Hebron Hills settlements and, to a lesser extent, the Greater Jerusalem settlements retained much of their financial incentives. But benefits in the rest of the settlements were lost, with the exception of a 7 percent tax break.

The Sheves plan was more than just a map of priorities. It was the best indication at the time of what Rabin meant when he made his famous differentiations between "political" settlements, which he opposed, and "security settlements," which he supported. The political settlements, those in the heart of the territories, lost the benefits; while the security settlements, for the most part, retained theirs.

With the cancellation of the Sheves map, the Netanyahu government is saying, "In our eyes, all the settlements are equal."

If the decision is so significant, why then is the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza downplaying it, saying that it is a poor substitute for their demands for immediate building?

The reason is simply because the council cannot create the impression that Netanyahu is giving in to their demands. They have to complain, its part of their role under the new government. If they cheer Netanyahu, it places him on the "extreme right." By criticizing him, they are helping to place him in the center, the political ground he desires.

Foreign Ministry weighs diplomatic mission closures

DAVID MAKOVSKY and Ilim

THE Foreign Ministry is drawing up a list of 16 diplomatic missions abroad, 10 of which will be eliminated due to the current round of supplementary budget cuts passed by the cabinet last week.

The Foreign Ministry has been mandated to cut NIS 45 million, five percent of its overall budget, making it one of the hardest-hit ministries on a percentage basis. There are indications that Foreign Minister David Levy will not contest the cut, since he has been one of the most vocal advocates of cutting those parts of the budget which will not hurt the poor.

Foreign Ministry officials say the final decision on which missions abroad will be made by Foreign Ministry Director-General Eitan Beatus, amid consultations with the relevant regional and administrative ministry bureaus. One of the considerations is whether the closing of one diplomatic mission will mean that the area can be covered by a non-resident ambassador in the vicinity.

While the list of 16 has not been officially disclosed, officials say they believe at least the following embassies are on the proposed list: Angola, Belarus, Bolivia, Burma, Dominican Republic, Georgia, Nepal, New Zealand, Panama, and Paraguay. Among the consulates believed to be under consideration are those in Philadelphia, San Francisco, and Shanghai.

The Shanghai diplomatic mission was only opened a few years ago.

Two years ago, the closing of embassies in Bolivia and Paraguay was forestalled due to indications by the host countries that they would move their respective embassies to Jerusalem. However, in apparent fear of Arab reaction, the two decided to move their embassies to Mevasseret Yerushalayim, outside the municipal boundaries.

During the last round of cuts a few years ago, Israel decided not to close embassies in Costa Rica and El Salvador since both host countries have embassies in Jerusalem. Israel also spared its embassy in Ecuador, since like El Salvador, it has purchased Israeli Kfir jets which require continuous contact and visits by Israeli personnel.

Israel has approximately 100 diplomatic missions in the world. In recent years, it has closed embassies in Fiji, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Liberia, Malawi, and Swaziland. It also closed consulates in Milan and Zurich.



President Ezer Weizman visits with St-Sgt. Meni Guy, to whom he awarded a certificate of merit for helping rescue a Channel 2 news team caught in riots at the Erez Checkpoint in September. Guy, wounded when he climbed a water tower to help evacuate the team, is still recovering in Sheba Hospital and was unable to receive the award with other recipients at Beit Hanassi last week. (Alon Ron/Israel Sun)

TA group raised \$35m. abroad Sarid blasts 'defeatist' Peres

HERB KEINON MICHAL YUDELMAN

A TEL AVIV-BASED organization has raised \$35 million from Jews abroad to purchase land in the territories, and has purchased a large plot in the Hebron Hills area and another near the Machpela Cave in Hebron, Israel Radio reported yesterday.

The report, which did not list the names of those involved, said that the organization is called the Bat-Hen Tshuva Group. According to the report, the group purchased the land in the Hebron Hills area for seven million dollars, and land near the Machpela Cave for \$900,000.

Private Jewish land purchases in the territories have been going on for years, and are kept highly secret. Settler activists said the amount of money the report mentioned had been raised seems "high," and that it is likely the sum mentioned has been collected over a number of years.

The proposed Jewish neighborhood in Jerusalem's Ras al-Amud section is slated to go up on land purchased privately by Irving Moskowitz, who lives in the US. One settlement source said that Moskowitz has also bought land in the territories, but would not elaborate.

Another activist who is very involved in these types of land deals said that the purchase of the land does not guarantee that something will be built on it, and that government approval is needed for anything to be built on the land.

One of the activists said the deals are secret because Palestinians who sell land to Jews fear for their lives, and because of the concern that the publicity will keep them from going through.

The price Jews pay for Arab-owned real estate in the territories is extremely high, the activist said. Reports have surfaced in recent weeks of a property near the Beit Hadassah complex in Hebron that was bought from Palestinians for close to \$1m. "It's all a matter of supply and demand," the source said. "They know we badly want these properties."

MERETZ leader MK Yossi Sarid yesterday blasted Labor leader Shimon Peres for not taking a firmer stand and leading the opposition against the government's policy.

Accusing Peres of having a "defeatist attitude," Sarid said if he lacks the strength and capability to lead the opposition "he should go home and let others, who have, do the job which is more important today than ever."

Sarid was commenting on Peres' statement in an interview on Israel Radio yesterday morning, that the opposition is to a large extent powerless to topple the government or change its policy. Peres said the new law which requires a majority of 61 MKs to topple the government "was one of the worst mistakes in our history. We've taken the Knesset's soul and authority away, and deprived it from the possibility to change policy. The new law bestows all the authority on the prime minister."

Sarid said that by explaining that the opposition in fact cannot do anything "Peres is doing a grave disservice to the opposition and I think he is betraying the confidence of almost 50% of the public who voted for him. I was angered and ashamed to hear him express such defeatist positions, which cause so much demoralization."

Bassiouny warns of recall

STEVE RODAN

EGYPTIAN Ambassador Mohammed Bassiouny left open the possibility last night that Cairo might recall him unless Israel advances the peace process.

"Everything is open," he said. "We hope the Israeli government will move forward and implement the agreement. Not moving means a deterioration in the region."

"I am not threatening you, but it would not be only this [the return of the ambassador], many things can happen. You know where it starts."

You don't know where it ends." Bassiouny was speaking to Arab affairs reporters from his Herzliya home, where he reviewed the stalled peace process.

The Egyptian envoy stressed that Cairo is a partner, rather than a mediator, in the peace process. He warned that failure to implement the Oslo Accords would result in violence that would undermine stability in the Middle East.

"Egypt is the key to the solution," he said.

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ברוך דיין אמת

In sorrow, we announce the death of

LOUIS SACKS ז"ל

The funeral will take place today, December 16, 1996 (6 Tevet 5757) at 10:30 a.m. starting at Sanhedria and thence to the Mount of Olives.

Shiva on Monday, December 16, at the home of Alan & Judith Sacks, 35 Hashayarot St., Givat Oranim, Jerusalem (Minha 1:30 p.m.) Shiva in London, Tuesday onwards.

Mourned by: Louise Sacks Rabbi Jonathan Sacks & Eialne Sacks Brian & Joanna Sacks Alan & Judith Sacks Elliot Sacks and the grandchildren

NEWS IN BRIEF

IDF allows Hebron Polytech to reopen

The IDF allowed the Hebron Polytechnic to reopen its doors to some students yesterday, for the first time since the wave of suicide bombings last spring. Two of the buildings were opened and the rest were to follow gradually "if law and order are kept on the spot," the army said.

The decision came following two weeks of meetings between IDF and Palestinian Authority officers in which the Palestinians committed themselves to maintaining law and order, the army said. It also follows a sit-in of 200 students last week at Hebron's Islamic University, which also has been closed since March. Students reportedly said the protests ended after the army agreed to reopen the Polytechnic, but the army denied there was any deal.

Arieh O'Sullivan

PA court sentences two Hamas men to death

A Palestinian Authority court yesterday sentenced to death alleged Hamas members Khalil al-Sakani and Hatem Abu Wadi, who were convicted of killing PA policeman Akram Ahmed and civilian Abd Alla al-Danaf in separate incidents in 1995, judicial officials said. A third alleged Hamas member, Abd al-Latif al-Ashker, received a life sentence for his role in the murders.

Court death sentences in Gaza cannot be carried out without the approval of PA Chairman Yasser Arafat, who has yet to ratify any of the previous five death sentences handed down.

Reuters

Dayan testifies attack on her was deliberate

Immediately after she rejected Yisrael Lederman's offer of a cup of hot tea, he flung it at her, MK Yael Dayan (Labor) testified in Jerusalem Magistrates' Court yesterday, at the opening of his trial. Lederman is accused of throwing scalding hot tea at Dayan when she was touring Hebron in October with the Knesset Committee on the Status of Women.

Dayan denied he was pushed and accidentally spilled the tea, turning her neck and chest. During her testimony, she was interrupted by both Lederman and another man, whom the court ejected. MK Na'omi Chazan (Meretz) also testified and a tape of the incident was shown.

Ilim

MDA files brief against closing station in TA

JUDY SIEGEL

MAGEN David Adom has filed a defensive brief with the Tel Aviv District Court asking it to reject the Tel Aviv Municipality's demand for the closure of the MDA station on Rehov Alkalai in north Tel Aviv.

MDA's lawyers said the municipality owes MDA NIS 1.5 million for operating expenses of its mobile intensive care unit in the city, which the municipality is supposed to help cover. MDA management asked the municipality to deduct this debt from MDA's debt in leasing charges for the north Tel Aviv station property. However, the city refused to make this trade-off, and as a result, the station is due to close.

The MDA spokesman said, "apparently, the Tel Aviv Municipality decided that city residents aren't entitled to the vital life-saving services of the station, and hundreds of them are liable to lose their lives in an emergency as a result."

He added that more than half of the sum demanded in leasing charges need not be paid because they involved debts of many years ago.

Meanwhile, the MICU in Western Galilee remains out of commission due to debts by the local authorities. Nahariya Government Hospital and Kupat Holim Clalit. As a result, 57 calls for medical help that required treatment by an MICU in recent days were treated by an ordinary ambulance, MDA said yesterday.

MICUs are manned by doctors and specially trained paramedics, and contain sophisticated resuscitation equipment that is unavailable on a regular ambulance. The Katyusha attacks in the North over the weekend highlighted the urgency of reinstating MICU service, MDA said, but the organization cannot afford to do so unless the local authorities, the hospital and the health fund pay their debts.

Kazakhstan children undergoing cosmetic surgery at Soroka

JUDY SIEGEL

SIX children from the republic of Kazakhstan have arrived at Beersheba's Soroka Hospital to undergo cosmetic surgery for congenital defects such as a cleft palate and lip. Due to lack of facilities and awareness in their own country, the children were not treated as babies, said Prof. Lior Rosenberg of Soroka's maxillofacial surgery department.

The cost of the treatment is being covered by a fund established by the president of

Kazakhstan, the Kazakh Embassy in Israel, the Metek Metal Technology company (which sets up refineries and petroleum fields in Kazakhstan), Kupat Holim Clalit's international relations department and Soroka.

Additional children will be treated here, as well as in Kazakhstan by Israeli doctors, who will train local physicians in the surgery. A team led by Rosenberg is due to fly to the CIS republic in the summer to train local doctors.

Former cancer patient gives birth to twins

JUDY SIEGEL

A 28-YEAR-OLD Jerusalem woman who two years ago was suffering from cancer of the endometrium (lining of the uterus) has given birth to healthy twins after undergoing conservative treatment that eliminated the tumor.

Getting endometrial cancer at such a young age is rare; in older women, the standard treatment is to remove the uterus. Because the patient was married but had not yet had children, Dr. Uzi Beller, head of Shaare Zedek Hospital's surgical and oncological gynecology unit, offered to use a technique that would not make her infertile.

Over several months, she

received the hormone progesterone under careful supervision. Then, the tumor was removed via the cervix using an electric scalpel with the aid of an optic fiber. Since it was a large cancerous growth, doctors had to do this in two stages over a period of two months.

After Beller saw that the treatment had succeeded and the uterus was completely normal, she was allowed to get pregnant. But because of fertility problems, she underwent *in-vitro* fertilization at the hospital and two weeks ago delivered the twins. The mother is in excellent condition.

Beller said that advances in treatment of gynecological cancers and fertility treatments allow young women suffering from such tumors the chance of having children.



Former Lehi member Yusuf Abu Ghosh is carried to his final resting place yesterday in the village that bears his name. (Ariel Jerusalem)

Lehi fighter Abu Ghosh dead at 77

HAIM SHAPIRO

THE funeral of Yusuf Abu Ghosh, a former Arab member of Lehi (otherwise known as the Stern group), took place yesterday in the village of Abu Ghosh outside Jerusalem. He was 77.

Abu Ghosh was best known for the part he played in freeing former MK Geula Coben from jail in Jerusalem's Russian Compound after she had been sentenced to nine years' imprisonment by the British mandatory authorities for operating the Lehi radio and carrying arms.

In her book, *Story of a Fighter*, Coben told how Yusuf Abu Ghosh and two other Arabs - Ghosh, Abu Ghosh, as well as a Jewish girl dressed as an Arab, had

entered the prison on the pretext of visiting an Abu Ghosh resident being held there. The four brought in a bundle of "laundry," including an Arab woman's outfit and smuggled it into the showers, where Coben put on the clothes and veil, and then made her getaway.

The girl and one of the three Arabs engaged a warden in conversation, while the other two staged a diversionary quarrel. They hit each other so realistically, even turning on the British, that they were arrested.

When it was discovered that Coben was no longer in the shower, the alarm was

sounded - but meanwhile the girl and the Arab had left. Yusuf Abu Ghosh and a cousin, Abdul Salem Abu Ghosh, were held, interrogated, and beaten, but did not break.

In 1951, after having disappeared and returned from Nablus, then under Jordanian rule, Yusuf Aho Ghosh served 18 months' imprisonment for the attempted murder of his cousin, Abdul Salem, apparently because the latter had decided to support an Arab party affiliated with Mapai in the general elections of 1949, rather than the Lehi list. The two were later reconciled in a *sufta*.

The deceased left a widow, a son, two daughters, and numerous grandchildren.

Policeman to be indicted for slapping Arab

THE Justice Ministry's police investigation division has recommended indicting a border policeman who allegedly struck an Arab in the courtyard of the Beersheba police station last month. According to the ministry's investigation, the policeman slapped the Arab when he asked for a drink of water, and then threatened to "get" him if he told anyone. Evelyn Gordon

Soldier dies of rat-bite rabies

JUDY SIEGEL

A 19-YEAR-OLD soldier, Rafi Tal of Netanya, died yesterday at Sheba Hospital of rabies, two months after being bitten on the lip by an unidentified animal - believed to be a rat - in his army tent. It was the first reported case of a rat spreading the disease to humans, and the first case in 39 years of an Israeli contracting and succumbing to rabies.

Although the rabid animal had not been caught and examined, the Acre district health office decided against immunizing the soldier against rabies, which would undoubtedly have saved him. Weeks after the bite, he was brought to Hillel Yoffe Hospital in Hadera, and when he lost consciousness, he was transferred to the Tel Hashomer hospital.

Blood and saliva samples were sent to the Pasteur Institute in Paris for confirmation of the diagnosis, as local labs lacked the ability to confirm it, and local doctors themselves were able to reach a diagnosis only on the basis of textbook descriptions, as they had never seen a case before.

For the last month of his life, Tal was unconscious and attached to a respirator, as there is no effective treatment once the incubation stage ends and the actual symptoms of the disease appear. People who had been in direct contact with him were vaccinated as well, as the virus can theoretically spread from an infected person to another by a kiss.

Health Minister Yehoshua Matza yesterday received the recommendations of a ministry-appointed team that looked into the tragic event. They reported that the district health office physician who made the faulty decision based it on the soldier's account that he was bitten by a small animal - such as a mouse or rat - which have not been involved in spreading rabies in this country.

The ministry decided to expand the definition of "bites by an unidentified animal" to include all mammals, even small ones such as rodents, because they could be infected by rabies. It will hold seminars for staffers and refresh their memories on dealing with animal bites, as well as expand its program of giving anti-rabies vaccine to wild and domesticated animals.

Meanwhile, the Israel Anti-Rabies Society issued a statement, declaring that leaving anti-rabies vaccine on bait for wild animals was the best way to combat rabies in the animal population. The society charged that the oral vaccine, recommended by the World Health Organization, was offered to Israel free by Germany, but that it was refused by the Agriculture Ministry's chief veterinarian, who "prefers to kill off tens of thousands of stray dogs and cats for fear that they were infected by foxes." The society added that such a policy was not only cruel, but unnecessary, as only 3 percent of animals that were put down were found in pathological exams of their brains to have been rabid.

When in doubt, vaccinate

BACKGROUND
JUDY SIEGEL

RABIES, spread by a virus in the saliva, can theoretically be contracted via bites or scratches by any mammal - from dogs, jackals, foxes, and cats to skunks, cows, weasels, and even small rodents. Dr. Jacob Assaf, an internal medicine specialist and director of the emergency department at Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem, said yesterday that anti-rabies vaccine should be given immediately if there is any possibility a rabid animal was involved.

"I don't have information on this specific case," Assaf said, but the principles are that someone who has been bitten or scratched by a mammal that ran away - in a region where rabies is known to exist - should be vaccinated.

Years ago, getting anti-rabies shots was a near-nightmare, consisting of a series of painful shots into the abdomen. Today, while not pleasant, anti-rabies vaccine is given in the arm, one injection with passive vaccine and the rest (usually five) active vaccine. The risk of complications is small.

"I signed forms for administering two rabies shots just today," Assaf said. "Soldiers who are in contact with animals, even those who remove the body of a donkey, are the most common recipients of the shots."

The initial symptoms of rabies are misleading, as they are very similar to that of influenza: a headache, sore throat, weakness, tiredness, and nausea. But these develop into a variety of frightening neurological, muscular, and other symptoms, including muscle spasms, respiratory and swallowing difficulties, excessive salivation, and reduced blood pressure.

In addition, there may also be psychological symptoms, including aggressiveness or depressive behavior and hallucinations. The symptoms in humans are very similar to those that appear in a rabid dog, and death is very painful if the patient is conscious.

Assaf says he himself has never seen a person with rabies, and that experience with the disease - almost totally confined to the Third World - is minimal.

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Tanzania, Rwanda send refugees home

POLICE hurled tear gas, fired guns in the air and swung batons at Rwandan refugees yesterday to force them to clear out of Tanzania.

Tens of thousands who had been hiding in forests and remained in a remote camp were on the road to Rwanda, following thousands who were driven out before them.

"They threw grenades at us that made a lot of smoke. It hurt our eyes," said a refugee who cradled an infant and identified herself as Maria.

Another refugee, Leonard, said it was tear gas. The refugees declined to give their last names for fear of being menaced by Tanzanian or Rwandan authorities.

Other refugees reported that police fired guns into the air and beat refugees with sticks.

More than a dozen refugees interviewed separately along a 10-km stretch of road about 60 km southeast of the border all reported that hundreds of police used force to drive them out of Kitali Hills camp and remote forests where they were hiding to avoid repatriation.

One woman said three children died from the tear gas fumes; another said five children were killed. Others reported that from three to eight

KARIN DAVIES
KITALI HILLS, Tanzania

adults were killed, and eight committed suicide rather than return to Rwanda. Two men said 60 died in the violence, but others in the crowd dismissed their claims.

It was impossible to independently verify the claims. Tanzanian authorities refused to speak to reporters, so they could not be asked about the refugees' reports.

As the Tanzanian police and military began a major operation to forcibly repatriate 535,000 refugees on Saturday, Brigadier Msuya, who uses only one name, said violence would not be used.

Tanzania wants all 535,000 Rwandan Hutus remaining in the country out by Dec. 31 because the refugees deforested much of the Ngara area - which lies in the Burigi National Reserve - and killed animals.

They had also used land illegally for growing crops and building settlements in hopes of settling down permanently. Lately, Tanzania has blamed an increase in violent crime on armed refugees.

The walk home came after Hutu extremists who controlled the camps led the fleeing refugees deeper into Tanzania.

Tanzania yesterday barred UN aid workers and journalists from the road clogged with returning Hutus.

Tanzanian troops had not used force since about 12,000 refugees walked across the narrow bridge spanning Rusumo Falls and into Rwanda starting Saturday.

Aid workers at the border estimated about 3,000 were crossing per hour later yesterday. Some 22,000 had crossed yesterday, said Peter Kessler, a UN High Commissioner for Refugees spokesman.

He said the groups of refugees were growing bigger, and late yesterday 2,000 were crossing every 15 minutes.

Those in the 18-km column of more than 500,000 refugees remaining in northwestern Tanzania appeared reluctant to complete the last few kilometers.

Only the International Committee of the Red Cross and Oxfam were allowed access to refugees, who have by now emptied almost all of the camps after being told they had to go home. (AP)



British Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind (left) jokes with his Cypriot counterpart Alecis M. Christofides upon Rifkind's arrival in Larnaca yesterday, part of his mission to persuade Turkish and Greek Cypriots to open peace talks. The visit was the first in Cyprus by a British minister in 30 years. (AP)

Court annuls Milosevic victory in Nis

BELGRADE (AP) - In an apparent attempt to defuse weeks of protest against President Slobodan Milosevic, a court he controls ordered an opposition victory in Serbia's second largest city restored, the opposition said yesterday.

Although voting lists showed the opposition coalition clearly won the November 17 elections in the city of Nis, the local electoral commission proclaimed Milosevic's Socialists the winners.

The proclamation touched off weeks of protests against Milosevic, the largest since he came to power in 1987, and the opposition appealed the decision. Tens of thousands of people joined the protests.

Milosevic called for repeat elections where irregularities were found.

The Socialists will probably appeal the court's new ruling,

opposition leaders said. The court's ruling yesterday, announced by the opposition, could not immediately be confirmed.

State-run media had earlier speculated that Milosevic might hand over Nis to the opposition in exchange for keeping control of the capital, Belgrade.

"We don't want any deals with Milosevic," said an opposition leader, Zoran Djindjic. "We will continue our protests till we get all our victories back and regardless of his concessions."

International officials have warned of the standoff between Milosevic and protesters.

Tens of thousands of demonstrators have taken to the streets every day for almost four weeks. About 200,000 people were in Belgrade on Saturday to demand that Milosevic restore their victories.

Earlier yesterday, news media controlled by Milosevic accused

demonstrators of being in the service of the US, Germany and other foreign powers.

Serbian TV, Milosevic's mouthpiece, showed demonstrators carrying large American and German flags and commented that this shows they are Western stooges.

The TV, which has been the main target of demonstrators' anger for its biased reporting, also carried numerous alleged letters of support for Milosevic from throughout Serbia saying he was "protecting the country's sovereignty" against American interference.

"Today, we have two Serbias," said opposition leader Vesna Petic. "One is Milosevic's arrogant Serbia which wants to remain an isolated island in the democratic world."

"The other is our Serbia, which is not afraid of the world and democracy," Petic said. "And our Serbia is winning."

More than 80 killed in fierce Mogadishu fighting

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP) - More than 80 people were believed killed yesterday and dozens wounded in some of the worst factional fighting in months in the divided Somali capital, witnesses said.

At least 42 people died after three mortar rounds landed on the crowded Bakara market in south Mogadishu in an area controlled by faction leader Hussein Aidid. Among the fatalities were 20 women selling jewelry, and most of the others were also civilians.

Many of the bodies were mutilated by shrapnel, and the market had pools of blood. At least 150 wounded passersby were taken to nearby hospitals.

In an area called Medina, also in south Mogadishu, about 40 people were believed killed in fighting, said sources at Ali Hassan Hospital. Residents contacted by phone reported that 23 of the dead were lying on the main market street.

Many of the deaths came from shelling after forces loyal to Aidid with dozens of battle wagons - trucks

mounted with heavy weapons - attacked supporters of a rival faction led by Ali Mahdi Mohamed.

Shells that hit the Bakara market apparently came in retaliation for an attack by Aidid's forces. Both sides suffered casualties.

Among the dead in Medina were seven brothers - aged between six months and 14 - who died when a mortar round landed on their house. Hospital workers were treating both parents who survived.

Aidid's supporters, who control a part of south Mogadishu, have laid siege to Medina, but all previous attempts to dislodge members of Ali Mahdi's Abgal subclan from the southern district have failed.

Gunfire and loud explosions continued throughout the day yesterday.

Medina lies on the so-called green line dividing the two halves of war-torn Mogadishu, since the country - and the capital - disintegrated into a fiefdom of warring clans in 1991.

Hungary bans 'Mein Kampf'

AFTER protests from Jewish groups, Hungarian prosecutor have banned *Mein Kampf*, saying Adolf Hitler's book violates individual rights. *The New York Times* reported in yesterday's editions. "Anything that violates personal rights can be banned," under a 1986 media law written by the Communist regime, prosecutor Attila Sarik told the *Times*.

About 500 copies of a Hungarian translation of the book were sold after it was advertised in a far-right newspaper, *Demokrata*. The remaining copies have been confiscated, the *Times* reported. "This is an anti-Semitic country. We shouldn't be surprised people are trying to sell it," said Guli Gal, a journalist at the Jewish newspaper *Uj Elet* (New Life). "*Mein Kampf* has no historical value, and the person who translated it is a fascist."

The English version of *Mein Kampf* also has been banned in Budapest, although a book-seller said he had sold only four copies of the book in four years. Other former communists states have been edgy about extremist works. In Poland, where *Mein Kampf* first appeared in Polish four years ago, it had an anonymous introduction and neither the publisher, nor translator were identified by their private names. The publisher was charged with, and acquitted of, "eulogizing fascism."

But all of this seemed to be good for sales - 20,000 copies of the Polish edition sold out in days, the *Times* said.

Book-sellers in the Czech Republic, meanwhile, were reluctant to display the biography of Albert Speer, because the book jacket showed a photograph of the leader of the Nazi munitions effort with Hitler. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

Italian civil court does not want Priebke trial

ROME (Reuters) - An Italian war crimes case against former SS captain Erich Priebke was left without a court to be heard in yesterday after a civilian prosecutor said he had no jurisdiction.

Italo Ormanni, deputy Rome public prosecutor, referred the controversial case back to a preliminary examining judge with a recommendation that Italy's highest court, the Court of Cassation, be asked to decide whether Priebke should be tried in civilian or military court.

Ormanni was assigned the case on December 5.

when a panel of military judges concluded that a civil court should decide whether Priebke was guilty of complicity in murder in Italy's worst World War II atrocity.

Their ruling brought Priebke's case into line with that of another SS veteran, former major Karl Hass, whose trial is being sought in Italy for the same atrocity.

Ormanni said he believed a military rather than a civilian court should handle the case because the SS was made up of soldiers and therefore was part of the armed forces.

Seizure of Russian troops may impede withdrawal

MOSCOW (AP) - The seizure of 22 Russian troops by armed Chechens could impede the withdrawal of Russian forces from Chechnya, a senior military commander said yesterday.

"The Chechens captured the Interior Ministry troops at a Russian guard post in neighboring Dagestan Saturday after they were forbidden to cross the border unless they left their weapons behind, Russian news agencies reported."

Gen. Anatoly Shchirko, commander of Interior Ministry troops in Chechnya, told the ITAR-Tass news agency their seizure could complicate the withdrawal of the last two Russian brigades from the breakaway republic.

However, he said, any decision

to halt or slow the withdrawal would have to ultimately be made in the Kremlin by the political leadership.

On Friday, Gen. Vladimir Sukhoruchkin, commander of all Russian troops in Chechnya, said the withdrawal was "ahead of schedule and may be completed next month."

Russia has agreed to pull out its last two brigades, numbering about 8,000 men, before presidential and parliamentary elections are held in the breakaway republic January 27.

The captured troops, deployed in the Russian region of Dagestan to guard its border with Chechnya, were seized by about 40 armed men and taken to Chechnya, the news agencies said.

Versatile comic Willie Rushton dead at 59

LONDON (AP) - Willie Rushton, a cartoonist, broadcaster and leading light of Britain's "satire boom" in the 1960s, died last week at age 59. Rushton, who was diabetic and recently had heart surgery, died at Cromwell Hospital after a brief illness, said his agent, Roger Hancock.

Rushton was one of the founders in 1961 of *Private Eye*, which mixed crusading journalism, satire and silliness.

He was part of the cast of "That Was the Week That Was," which ran for 36 episodes in 1962-63 on the BBC. His specialty was impersonating Harold Macmillan, who was then prime minister.

His film credits include *Nothing But The Best* (1964), *Those Magnificent Men in their Flying Machines* (1965) and *Monty Carlo Or Bust* (1969).

Israel Electric Corporation TENDERS

The Israel Electric Corporation wishes to announce the results of the following public tenders:

1. Tender and subject	No. 559523 - Contract for the supply of distribution and protection boards
Successful bidder:	Hayotzer, Kiryat Bialik
Date of decision:	19.11.96
Value of winning bid:	\$792,572
Value of lowest bid:	\$792,572
Value of highest bid:	\$1,724,998\

2. Tender and subject	No. 550071 - Size 00 Isolator Blades with Handles
Successful bidder:	Nisco, Holon Industrial Zone
Date of decision:	7.11.96
Value of winning bid:	\$1,439,211
Value of lowest bid:	\$1,439,211
Value of highest bid:	\$2,011,849

3. Tender and subject	No. 545094 - 3-phase kWhr Meters
Successful bidder:	Elcomet, Ramat Hasharon
Date of decision:	10.11.96
Value of winning bid:	\$4,001,850
Value of lowest bid:	\$4,001,850

3. Tender and subject	No. 515597 - Single-phase, domestic, kWhr Meters
Successful bidder:	GEC, England
Date of decision:	24.11.96
Value of winning bid:	\$3,821,270
Value of lowest bid:	\$3,821,270
Value of highest bid:	\$5,435,445

MINISTRY OF HEALTH Department for Property and Services, Jerusalem

1. The Ministry hereby invites bids in accordance with the following details:

Tender No. 124/96 - Expanded Financial System for General Governmental Geriatric and Psychiatric Hospitals

2. Period of Contract: 7 years, with option of extension for another 5 years.

3. Scope of Contract: As detailed in the tender documents, with option for extension or limitation of the requirements to a limit of 25% of the scope of the tender.

4. a. To receive the tender documents and further details, one should contact the Secretariat of the Department of Property and Services, 29 Rehov Rivka, Floor 2, Ministry of Health, Jerusalem. Tel.: 02-586-1221 or 02-586-1364, during regular working hours.

b. Before receiving the tender documents, one must pay the sum of NIS 500 by means of a payment slip, to the Postal Bank, to Account No. 0-05207-9, to "The Ministry of Health, Department of Property and Services."

5. Bids are to be submitted to the Tenders Box at 29 Rivka St., Floor 2, Ministry of Health, Jerusalem, no later than February 3, 1997, at 12 noon.

6. a. If there are any reservations or questions, these should be addressed in writing, no later than January 5, 1997, to: Mr. Avi Freund, 4 Shalom Yehuda, Ministry of Health, Jerusalem, Tel. 02-670-8850 or Fax, 02-671-5570.

b. A bidder who does not do so, will be considered as if he agrees to the conditions of the tender.

7. a. The basic conditions for submitting bids are:

- 1) To submit a valid certificate from an accountant regarding your financial turnover, in keeping with the orders of the Income Tax regulations.
- 2) Payment in the sum of NIS 500 before receiving documents of the tender, non-refundable.
- 3) In the tender, there may participate suppliers who are an incorporated legal body with proven experience of at least 3 years in providing services of the type detailed in the tender, and whose reported turnover for VAT, for 1995, was at least NIS 10,000,000. The Ministry is allowed to give preference to legal bodies having greater experience in giving the services required in this tender, and who have manpower of high expertise.
- 4) To submit with the bid confirmation that you are a recognized trader, for the purposes of VAT.
- 5) To submit a bank guarantee, linked to the COL in the sum of NIS 250,000, in force for 90 days from the final date for submitting the bid.
- 6) Participation in the meeting of suppliers which will take place on January 3, 1997 at 12 p.m. in the Meeting Room at 4 Shalom Yehuda St., in the Ministry of Health, Jerusalem.

b. a. The Ministry of Health reserves to itself the right to conduct negotiations with the most suitable bidder before determining who wins the tender, in keeping with Regulation 7 of the regulations of Requirement for Tenders.

b. For purposes of determining the winning supplier, there will be taken into account only the bid for the general hospitals.

8. We do not undertake to accept the lowest bid, any part thereof, or any bid. We are permitted to divide the order and to give preference to bidders who are experienced, as mentioned above, in the conditions of the tender, and we are likewise allowed to cancel or to expand, or to limit the extent of the tender, because of budgetary and/or

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In pursuit of the Xmas grail

FILM REVIEW
ADINA HOFFMAN

JINGLE ALL THE WAY

★★ 1/2

Directed by Brian Levant. Screenplay by Randy Kornfield, Deborah Kaplan, Harry Elfont and Chris Columbus. 88 minutes. Hebrew title: *Masna b'hit g'horim*. English dialogue, Hebrew subtitles. General audience.

With Arnold Schwarzenegger, Sinbad, Rita Wilson, Robert Conrad, Jim Belushi.

Jingle all the way is a sticky wrapped but entertaining Christmas package that stars Arnold Schwarzenegger as Howard, a harried father who never follows through on the promises he makes to his young son. Feeling guilty, he vows to buy the boy his dream toy for the holiday - a super-duper action figure named Turbo Man. The problem, though, is that it's already Christmas Eve and every last one of the dolls sold out weeks ago. What's a dead-beat dad to do? Howard embarks on a set of wild adventures, in desperate pursuit of this plastic grail and his son's affections.

Directed by Brian (The Flintstones) Levant, and written by a team whose members include Chris (Home Alone) Columbus, the film provides a noisy, slapstick send-up of the "Christmas spirit" in its most acquisitive American form. The holiday, as celebrated by the characters in *Jingle*, has little to do with religion in the old-fashioned Christian sense of peace on earth and mercy mild. Instead, the movie satirizes that other, more widespread American belief - in salvation through shopping. What results is not exactly a glowing portrait of the United States in late December. Using an exaggerated physical style, the filmmakers reduce all the grown-ups in the picture to temper-



It's Christmas Eve and Howard (Arnold Schwarzenegger) wants a Turbo Man toy for his boy.

(Murray Close)

tantum-throwing little kids who will push and shove and jump on each other to get their hands on a toy. And, throughout, the chipper, seasonal soundtrack comments ironically on the hell they're all enduring. "The Most Wonderful Time of the Year" bouncing along as a crazed pack of parents maul each other to get at the doll, "I'll be Home for Christmas" crooning as Howard's van runs out of gas and he's forced to push it along-

side the freeway, etc. Some of the routines are funnier than others. In one of the better bits, Jim Belushi appears as a sneaky-looking Santa Claus whose sickle is a leering punk of a bearded elf. Sitcom star Sinbad spouts a few loud, lively riffs as a mailman who's racing with Howard to find a toy for his own son. There are, perhaps, too many repetitions of a similar set-up (over and over, Howard comes

within inches of a Turbo Man, only to have it yanked away). But all these gags are so broadly played and briskly edited, we hardly have time to tire of them. Besides, most of the audience is likely to sense that the biggest joke is yet to come. Why else would Schwarzenegger star in this movie? From his first appearance on the screen - with his boxy jaw, perfect pectorals and batteries-out-included line delivery - we ask our-

selves: why does a kid with a life-sized action figure for a dad need a Turbo Man doll? The question moves from playful speculation to literal plot twist as the film goes on and, by the end, *Jingle all the Way* has evolved from a cynical tale of consumerism run amuck to a bittersweet fable about why little boys sometimes trust superheroes more than their fathers. Art it ain't, but it's sure to give you the holiday snuffles.

Michael Jackson's Jewish baby

TOM GROSS

MICHAEL Jackson's baby is going to be Jewish.

The child, a boy to be named Michael Jackson Jr., is due in February. Jackson married the child's mother, his long-time friend Debbie Rowe, in a bush-hush ceremony last month at an Australian hotel. Rowe was converted to Judaism as a young child after being adopted by a Jewish family, according to the British Jewish magazine *Shalom*. MTV News reported that the boy will be brought up "Jew-ish."

Jackson's former wife, Lisa Marie Presley, whom he divorced in January after 20 months of marriage, is also believed to be of partial Jewish descent. Her father Elvis is thought to have had a Jewish grandparent.

The news will come as an even greater surprise to some in light of the controversy surrounding lyrics

on his latest album, *HIStory*, which many said were antisemitic. The song "They Don't Care About Us," included the line "Jew me, sue me, kick me, like me, don't you black and white me."

Jackson, 38, met Rowe, 37, about 15 years ago at the plastic surgeon's office where she worked; they have remained friends ever since. Reports that Rowe was artificially inseminated and paid \$500,000 to carry the child have been denied by Jackson's agent.

Over the years, the superstar who, according to a poll by *People* magazine is the most famous man on earth, has earned the nickname "Wacko Jacko," for his numerous eccentricities. Among these, he bathes in Evian water, has sailed a 12-meter-tall statue of himself down the Thames in London and has tried to buy the Elephant Man's bones.

Yiddish voices from Cracow

HELEN KAYE

IN 1992, 50 years after the Nazis shot Mordechai Gebirtig in the Cracow Ghetto, Bente Kahan performed her newest one-woman show, *Farewell Cracow*, in his memory, at the Semina Cinema in Warsaw - one of the few remaining structures of the Warsaw Ghetto.

"I realized what a theatrical writer he was," says Kahan, who first performed a Gebirtig song in 1983, "telling the story of his life and his surroundings through his poems." The song she sang was "Our Shetl is on Fire," written after a pogrom in 1938, and which became an anthem for the Jews in the ghettos who fought back.

Gebirtig was a carpenter who played the piano with one finger - enough to write music for the poems he wrote about life in Kasimierz, the Jewish quarter of Cracow. His poems reflect that life, all of it, the joys and the sorrows. *Farewell Cracow* is built around those poems and songs. Kahan will perform it twice, in both Yiddish and in English, at the Haifa Auditorium on December 30, and at Yad Vashem on January 1. She will also sing a concert of Yiddish songs and some numbers in English from her newest show, *Voices from Theresienstadt*, at the Inbal Center in Tel Aviv and at the opening of the International Yiddish Festival at Neveh Ilan. She'll do the Theresienstadt show in German at the Haifa Auditorium.

Voices from Theresienstadt happened "when a survivor of the camp who lived in Denmark gave me some of the songs they made up to sing at the cabaret in the camp, and things sort of accelerated from there. Because I felt that I couldn't just sing the songs as though Theresienstadt was the jolliest place on earth, I had to put them into context."

So Kahan interviewed survivors, and in the play-with-music she wrote with a colleague, Kahan plays five women, each of whom tells her own story. As well as the repertoire she'll perform here, Kahan has written and performed four more monodramas, including one on the great blues singer Bessie Smith, called *Bessie, A Bluesical*, which she performs within the framework of Dybbuk, the theater company she formed in 1990.

"I'm primarily an actress," she says over the phone from her Oslo



Bente Kahan: Transcending nostalgia (Jane Moller-Hansen)

home, "and I work through text. The songs complement that." Her father, Herman Kahan, a Holocaust survivor, settled in Oslo where he met his wife, Esther, and where their five children were born and grew up. "There was never any doubt that she'd go into the theater," recounts Kahan's sister Yvonne, who lives in Tel Aviv. Kahan graduated in theater at Tel Aviv University, worked briefly on the local regulatory stage, and then went to New York where she studied at the American Academy of Dramatic Art before returning to live and work in Oslo. She worked on the fringe, and played Ibsen at the National Theater. At the same time she started performing in Yiddish because "there are many people who can play Ibsen, but I have something else to offer."

Yiddish culture was a part of her childhood, but performing in Yiddish was more than invoking memories. She never managed to integrate into Israeli society, "and I was the most ardent Zionist of the family," she says wistfully, and so "I needed to look back into that culture to feel rooted again." But for Kahan, performing in Yiddish is the invocation of a vanished world and a buried culture, and "because that culture was so great and so rich, there's a responsibility in presenting it that transcends nostalgia."

There are only about 1,000 Jews in Norway, but Kahan performs for non-Jews as well, in Europe and soon in the UK and the US. She intends to enlarge Dybbuk too, "for educational outreach in Jewish and Yiddish culture. We gave so much to European culture, and it's important for non-Jews to know that."

Have flute, will travel

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

YOUNG Israeli flutist Sharon Bezzaly got an offer she could not refuse. Studying at the Paris Conservatory about a year ago, she was invited to come for one month to Salzburg, the city of Mozart, to replace an ailing flutist in the local Camera Academica orchestra. After one month, 85-year-old maestro Sandor Vegh asked Bezzaly to remain with his orchestra which plays regularly at Salzburg's most prestigious Mozartium, and tours all over the world.

Moving to Salzburg from Paris, after living her first 18 years in Tel Aviv, was quite a shock, Bezzaly admitted last week, speaking at her parents' home in Kfar Sava. "Salzburg is a very beautiful city but to a point," she said. "You can't stay there for too long because you get bored. And moreover it took time to get used to the fact that all stores close at six. So if I'm stuck in the evening without milk I simply can't have my coffee."

Bezzaly, 24, used to believe that she could maintain a professional career from Israel. "I really believed that the world is so small and everything can be done



Sharon Bezzaly: Salzburg can get boring.

from here. But I was wrong. Salzburg after all is not that close. But I still came home as much as I can."

She last played here four years ago with the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra, and now she is back for a series of concerts with the Israel Chamber Orchestra. Playing the 1949 Flute Concerto by Jolivet is a special thrill. "It's one of the most beautiful works written for the

flute. It's really not a modern piece, it's quite tonal and lyric and it also has very quick parts too. It's really an amazing work which is very accessible."

Sharon Bezzaly joins the ICO to play the Jolivet Flute Concerto as well as Devienne's Symphonie Concertante for two flutes and orchestra, tonight at the Tel Aviv Museum and tomorrow in Kfar Sava.

Viva Domingo!

CLASSIC DISCS
MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Placido Domingo, Ruth Ann Swenson - Gomodo: Romeo et Juliette. Munchner Rundfunkorchester, Leonard Slatkin. RCA (09626 68448 2).

Placido Domingo - Bajo El Cielo Español. Agustín Lara, María Teresa Lara - Suite Española. Sony (SK 62625).

SPANISH tenor Placido Domingo never seems to rest. In between very hectic performance schedules of opera productions and the Three Tenors concerts he spends many hours in the recording studios for either solo albums or operas.

Gomodo's *Romeo et Juliette* is a charming opera with some haunting melodies. Gomodo centers around several grand duets

between Romeo and Juliette, and Domingo sings these duets magically. But the 50-plus tenor does not sound young enough and there's no way he can hide it. It is great to hear Domingo sing this role but it would have been even better 10 or 12 years ago.

Domingo is perfectly matched with Ruth Ann Swenson, one of the greatest young sopranos of our time. She too is no ingenue, yet her glorious voice is suited to perfection to the role. In this recording both Romeo and Juliette accept the inevitable death with amazing grace and passionate love.

DOMINGO'S newest solo album is devoted to the Spanish music he sings so beautifully. Here he simply sings with all his heart and reaches your soul without any problem.

In recent years he devoted a lot of energy to light Spanish music and with great results. This time he sings music by the great Mexican composer Agustín Lara. The music is delightful and captivating and, most important, it is performed with sincerity, devotion, love and panache. Domingo clearly enjoys singing any good tune, whether written by Verdi or Wagner or by some street musician in a forgotten land. And for that we are the true beneficiaries because every new disc of Placido Domingo is a real celebration.

David Copperfield's 'Dreams & Nightmares'

IT'S all in a night's work. Escaping from a giant chain saw before it cuts him to pieces, walking through a spinning industrial fan with nary a slice or a dice, and flying, no strings attached, inside a Plexiglas box.

Magician David Copperfield is calling his New York theater debut "Dreams and Nightmares," as suggested by the show's creative adviser, film director Francis Ford Coppola.

The production is ensconced through December 29 in the Martin Beck Theater, with 1,400 seats, one of the smaller venues the magician has played in over his more than two-decade career.

The magician travels on the road for most of each year, giving some 500 performances. "I'm forced to come up with about 45 minutes of new material each year," he says. "I have developed 17 or 18 hours of performance material in my life. This may not sound like a lot, but during their careers, some of the highest names in magic only had about an hour-and-a-half of material."

It can take Copperfield as long as a year to develop a new stunt. His flying illusion took seven years. Copperfield, like any magician worth his hocus-pocus, is dressed entirely in black - but the look is

downtown rather than top hat and tails. Expensive-looking black leather jacket, black turtle-neck sweater, black pants and shoes. They match his mane of black hair and bushy black eyebrows.

Copperfield is something of a magic historian, collecting magic memorabilia, some of which has been brought to the Martin Beck for display during his engagement.

"Martin Beck was Houdini's manager," says the performer, reveling in the coincidence. The show, one of Broadway's hottest tickets, has been adapted by playwright David Ives, author of the off-Broadway hit *All in the Timing*.

"During my tours, I put things into the show in a very raw form. I have people hate it for a while. That really motivates you to make it good quickly because you've got an audience out there," Copperfield says. "You are only as good as you dare to be bad."

The magician has a group of friends he calls his "naysayers." "Some of my colleagues have lost their careers because they have a lot of 'yes' people around them. I have people whose job it is to hate everything that I do. I would rather have them tell me, while I am out touring and before I get here or go on TV." (AP)

NEWS OF THE MUSE

Seoul music

Avram Reichart, 25, won first prize and a gold medal in the first Dong-A International Music Competition in Seoul, earlier this month. The prize comprised a \$50,000 cash award as well as concert and recording contracts. In the final round of the competition in which 48 pianists participated, Reichart played Prokofiev's Third Piano Concerto.

Gil Garburg and Asaf Fein, both 21, won the annual Rafi Gorenk Piano Competition which took place in Jerusalem last month, a competition Reichart has previously won.

Michael Ajzenstadt

Shine shines

The US's National Board of Review of Motion Pictures has named the Australian low-budget *Shine* best film of the year. Previously voted most popular film by festival audiences at the Toronto film festival, *Shine* tells the extraordinary true story of pianist David Helfgott, and his relationship with his father, a Holocaust survivor.

Tom Cruise was named best actor for his work as a fallen sports agent fighting for a comeback in *Jerry Maguire*, and Frances McDormand picked up honors as best actress for her role of the precinct sheriff in the off-beat comedy *Fargo*.

The board, made up of teachers, actors, writers, movie production workers and others, will present the awards February 24 at a gala dinner at Tavern on the Green in New York.

AP

Just good friends

The cast of the hit TV comedy *Friends* have made a pact to ensure that none of them ever become more than just good friends. David Schwimmer, who plays Ross, told the *New York Post*: "We have made a verbal agreement that nothing is going to cross the friendship boundary."

"Sure, we're tempted," said fellow cast member Matthew Perry (who has recently been linked with Julia Roberts), of the possibility of on-set romances. "The three girls on our show are very good-looking - but we have a deal."

Tom Gross

Fourth time lucky

It's fourth time lucky for Brad Pitt. The Hollywood superstar is to marry his girlfriend Gwyneth Paltrow, star of the movie version of Jane Austen's *Emma* (which will be reviewed by Adina Hoffman in Friday's *Times* supplement).

Paltrow had turned down Pitt's marriage proposals on three previous occasions, but this time Pitt, 32, reportedly persuaded her on his guitar before giving her a diamond ring. The couple, who plan to marry in March, met two years ago when Pitt was 21.

Tom Gross

A living legend retires

Luciano Pavarotti, the King of the tenors, has announced his retirement. But the internationally acclaimed Italian opera singer, who achieved worldwide fame among non-opera fans as a result of his singing the theme tune for the 1990 soccer World Cup, won't be hanging up his tuxedo just yet. Pavarotti's retirement, an Italian newspaper that he won't stop performing until 2001.

"Obviously I can't quit now. I am up to my ears in appointments," says the living legend who grew up poor (his father was a baker and his mother worked in a cigar factory). So far, this month alone, Pavarotti has already sung in New York, Vienna and Naples.

Tom Gross

Room at the top

Education Ministry media advisor Ephraim Lipid is expected to be one of the chief contenders for the post of director general of ETV. Current incumbent Abava Feinmesser, who was appointed two years ago by then-education minister Amnon Rubenstein, does not know whether her contract, which has expired, will be extended.

Her approach might be too controversial for Education Minister Zevulun Hammer. It was she who approved the inclusion in the line-up of a program in which young gays frankly discuss their sexual orientation. Although the program has been listed at least twice, Hammer has thus far succeeded in keeping it off the air.

Two other candidates for the post are Yitzhak Elyan, who hosts a late-night interview show on Radio 2, and senior *Yedioth Aharonot* correspondent Ron Ben-Isai. Also in the running is Amnon Nadav, who after more than a decade as head honcho at Israel Radio may welcome the opportunity to explore another branch of the communications media.

Greer, Fay Cashman

Youth orchestra returns

The International Youth Symphony Orchestra, which stunned local music lovers a few winters ago under the baton of Lorin Maazel, but impressed much less in later years, is returning this month for more work and concert throughout the country. The young musicians are of course new, and Maazel's place will be taken by Aldo Coccaro and Roberto Mincigoi.

The orchestra joins hands with the Israel Young Philharmonic in a special concert under Zubin Mehta within the IPO's 60th anniversary program, on December 25 in Jerusalem.

Michael Ajzenstadt

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About bygones

SUSAN HATTIS ROLEF

THIS week Germany and the Czech Republic will be initiating a declaration of reconciliation formally terminating the longstanding disagreement between them.

Reports say the declaration will include mutual expressions of regret over both the Nazi occupation of Czechoslovakia that followed the Munich Agreement in 1938 and the brutality with which three million Germans were expelled from the Sudetenland by the Czechs after World War II.

It will have purely symbolic value, since the damage the Germans did during the war cannot be undone, and the Czechs have no intention of letting the Germans back into their country.

The declaration's significance for Israel lies in the fact that one of the many inappropriate historical analogies Prime Minister Netanyahu keeps making is the one between the Sudeten Germans and the Palestinians.

Back in the 1938 election campaign, during a debate with Labor's Ephraim Sneh (who wasn't a candidate), Netanyahu cited the Sudeten Germans in Czechoslovakia as an example of a large minority enjoying autonomous rights - the kind of rights he was willing to offer the Palestinians.

I pointed out at the time that Netanyahu didn't seem to know his history, since the Germans were not satisfied with autonomy but wanted to become part of the German Reich. They ended up being transferred to Germany.

The Sudeten Germans are thus an example of successful forced transfer, not autonomy.

In an interview with Ha'aretz last month Netanyahu again brought up the case of the Sudeten Germans.

"No historical analogy is perfect," he replied to a question. "But the attempt to portray us as heartless conquerors in a foreign country reminds us of the propaganda the Germans directed against the Czechs in an attempt to make them withdraw from the Sudetenland."

Once again the analogy is unfortunate. Netanyahu might feel that Israel today finds itself in the situation of Czechoslovakia on the eve of World War II, but that isn't the way the rest of the world sees it.

MOST people who know their history would argue that Israel's position vis-a-vis the territories since 1967 is analogous to Germany's vis-a-vis the Sudetenland in the years 1938-45.

Germany claimed that the Sudetenland had been German soil from time immemorial and was thus rightfully part of the German Reich; Israel claims that Judea and Samaria have belonged to the Jewish people since time immemorial and therefore constitute part of Greater Israel.

The difference is that the Germans were the majority in the Sudetenland, whereas the Jews, despite close to 30 years of occupation and colonization efforts, constitute less than 10 percent of the population of Judea and Samaria.

What Netanyahu seems in need of today is not a science adviser who can come up with genetic proof that some of the inhabitants in the Jebelaya refugee camp originally came from Syria (as his new scientific adviser Prof. Yisrael Hanokgelo did) but someone who can brief him on world history and comparative systems of government.

Dry Bones



of government. Such an adviser might stop our prime minister making a fool of himself and insulting a variety of innocent peoples (Puerto Ricans, Andorrans and Czechs) around the world, as well as confusing the Palestinians as to what he intends regarding their future.

Going by the kind of analogies Netanyahu employs he intends either to bestow Israeli citizenship on the Palestinians (as the US did with the Puerto Ricans); reduce their numbers and territory to make them fit the Andorran model (Andorra's territory is approximately 190 square miles and its population close to 40,000) or simply transfer them, as the Czechs did with the Sudeten

Germans in 1945. I really don't believe he intends any of these courses. One hopes that several years from now Israel-Palestinian relations will be such as to allow the two peoples to sign a declaration of reconciliation much like the one Germany and the Czech Republic will be signing this week. Its significance would lie in the formal recognition that the two parties are letting bygones be bygones, putting behind them futile wrangling over historical rights and wrongs that can only lead to more wrongs being committed in future.

The writer is a political scientist.

Netanyahu's political overdraft

PRIME Minister Binyamin Netanyahu began his term of office six months ago after having defied the opinion polls, the press, and international onlookers to become the first directly elected prime minister in Israel's history. He took office under a cloud of suspicion that he would abandon the Oslo Accords, leading to a collapse of the peace process.

The new government was immediately presented with the first litmus test of its commitment to the peace process in general, and the Oslo Accords in particular - meeting Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat and redeploying in Hebron. Within three months, Netanyahu met with Arafat, despite campaign statements that he would only do so if the Palestinians were in full compliance with Oslo.

In an ironic twist of events, Netanyahu now seems more inclined to meet Arafat and redeploy in Hebron than Arafat is prepared to accept what initially would have been viewed as significant Israeli concessions. And this is after Palestinian policemen opened fire on IDF soldiers in September - a watershed that former prime minister Yitzhak Rabin predicted would be the end of Oslo if it ever happened.

During the election campaign, Netanyahu could not bring himself to even speak of the Oslo Accords by name - preferring instead to commit that Israel would adhere to "international agreements." Today the Netanyahu government constantly reiterates its commitment to fulfilling Oslo, and has emmeshed itself in the Oslo process to a degree that few would have predicted before the election. Yet Netanyahu is no closer to convincing many Israelis and the rest of the world that he is committed to achieving peace than he was on election day.

This seemingly paradoxical situation can be explained simply by the fact that every action the government takes toward Oslo passes without comment, while every action that seems to contradict Oslo meets with a maelstrom of opposition.

It does not matter that the opening of the Western Wall Tunnel exit in September, or the possible expansion of settlements, are not violations of the Oslo Accords - as opposed to Palestinian threats of violence, refusal to extradite terror suspects, and the PA's failure to confiscate illegal weapons.

What matters is that the Netanyahu government has failed to create the political capital necessary to shape the peace process in its own image. In fact, the government is sinking further

and further into the red in its political capital account.

Political capital, like money in the bank, must be earned before it is spent. The government began half a year ago with nothing in its account, or perhaps a slight deficit. Rather than beginning with a honeymoon period that new governments are often granted, the Netanyahu coalition was immediately put on probation - it was assumed to be against peace unless proven otherwise.

Since then, the relatively swift embrace of Oslo has not earned Netanyahu political capital, because it was perceived to have been done under duress. At the same time, the government took or contemplated taking controversial actions which have further sapped an already empty account.

The problem is not the basic direction the government has chosen, but that it has not created the necessary political capital to carry out its policies. Popular actions create such assets; controversial actions spend them. Netanyahu is right to say that he would be very popular internationally if he simply gave in to every Palestinian demand, and he is right to eschew such popularity. But the flip side is also true - a government cannot only take controversial actions without balancing them with actions that gain political support.

Now is the time for Netanyahu to take the step the government has been hinting at for months, but has not moved on decisively: the creation of a unity policy toward a permanent status agreement with the Palestinians.

Likud faction leader MK Michael Eitan and would-be Labor leader MK Yossi Beilin have been holding quiet discussions to see if there is common ground between Labor and Likud visions of a permanent status agreement with the Palestinians. Eitan characterized Labor's permanent status vision as a "state-minus," while the Likud's vision is "autonomy-plus." Netanyahu himself has pointed out that there is very little difference between the enhanced autonomy that he envisions and the constricted Palestinian state that Labor favors.

Labor leader Shimon Peres has said that what is important is not a unity government, but a unity policy. He said that if there were such a policy he could support it as well from outside the government as within it. Netanyahu must accept Peres's challenge and hammer out a unity policy. Such a move would involve compromises by both sides, but if both sides care about the national interest more than pride and politics, it can be done.

Netanyahu needs not a science adviser but someone to stop him drawing foolish historical parallels

1938 and the brutality with which three million Germans were expelled from the Sudetenland by the Czechs after World War II. It will have purely symbolic value, since the damage the Germans did during the war cannot be undone, and the Czechs have no intention of letting the Germans back into their country.

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Ms. Buzaglo & Ms. Bernstein

SUSAN BELLOS

EVERY now and again there is a small public squeak about ethnic discrimination in Israeli schools.

Last week it was Mizrahi (working-class Israelis of non-Western origin) parents of pupils in a religious girls school in Bnei Brak complaining about separate classes held for the 20 percent of Ashkenazi pupils left in the school.

The Ministry of Education spokesman deemed this segregation impermissible and its director-general, Benzion Dell, declared that he would exert all his influence to bring about "good will" among the pupils. The directors of the school merely noted that ministerial "pedagogic" decisions are not binding upon them since they are part of the Independent (i.e. Agudat Yisrael) Education network.

The issue here is not really the quite nasty racism inside Ashkenazi haredi circles. Nor is it that the haredi school system, while cheerfully accepting funding from the Ministry of Education, can also tell the ministry to go to hell and get away with it.

The real issue is the educational discrimination suffered by children from poor, usually non-Western, backgrounds. It is not that parents called Buzaglo are so desperate to have their daughters sitting in close proximity to little girls called Bernstein. It's just that the Buzaglos are aware that the Bernsteins are getting a much better educational deal.

Quite simply, less than a quarter of Mizrahi teenagers in Israel go on to university, as compared to two-thirds of pupils from Western backgrounds.

This could just be because lots of people called Buzaglo are not very bright, as has been implied over the years in numerous programs for

pupils designated "culturally disadvantaged," "culturally deprived" etc. These programs were based, and sometimes still are, on the work of the late Prof. Carl Frankenstein, who posited the

ers' salaries. The bigger budget obscured what may be the real story of the '90s, which is how the Ministry of Education quietly decided that it just wasn't worth seriously invest-

The real education story of the '90s: how the ministry decided that almost half the population wasn't worth serious investment

interesting notion that non-Western Jewish Israeli children think differently from their Ashkenazi peers. It might also just be because almost all the secondary, comprehensive schools in low-income Mizrahi neighborhoods offer mostly low-academic tracks. Studies there rarely lead to a full matriculation certificate (bagrut), without which you cannot begin university studies in Israel.

This is all rather puzzling because lots and lots of money has been spent on education over the past five years. In 1995 for example, the Ministry of Education budget was 14.2b, about 50 percent larger than in 1990. However, as noted by the Adva Center policy analysis institute, "the budget increase was not accompanied by a general narrowing of inequality. In fact, the budgets of many programs meant for schools in disadvantaged neighborhoods, development towns and Arab localities have eroded."

All the extra millions were in fact funnelled toward absorbing mostly Ashkenazi former Soviet new-immigrant pupils and finally paying the long-delayed rises in teach-

ing in 50 percent of the population's education. According to the Adva Center, "Budgets meant to boost the achievements of schools in disadvantaged neighborhoods, development towns and Arab localities, such as 'remedial hours' and operations of the Education and Welfare Services division, actually decreased in real terms in the first half of the 1990s."

ONE MAIN reason why there is little more than a muffled squeak from the public about this kind of discrimination is, apart from the natural disinclination of journalists and politicians to actually read long budget reports, that in this kind of deal all interested parties - except the public - get a payoff. The independent Agudat Yisrael, Habad and Shas school networks have been growing considerably over the past five years. At the same time the Islamic Movement in Arab areas has been vastly expanding its education and welfare network. In fact, a tacit political alliance has been forged between the min-

istry and these networks, especially Shas, retarding the schooling of the country's poorest people.

So everybody's happy. Shas, Habad, Agudat Yisrael and the Islamic Movement get to increase their constituencies and political constituencies. The government is happy because it will not be obliged to lay out serious money on new school buildings, modern labs, libraries, computers, music, art and cultural enrichment programs.

For fundamentalist education comes nice and cheap. Large classes are stuffed into overcrowded and usually rented buildings that were never designed to be schools, and they are taught by underpaid non-union teachers.

That just leaves Ms. Buzaglo and Ms. Bernstein. The former, if she's lucky, will start working as a kindergarten helper or shop assistant, while the latter starts her BA in economics or business administration. Ms. Buzaglo - who may have been attending a haredi school in Bnei Brak where, as a girl, she emerged hardly qualified to make much of a living - may feel cheated.

But Ms. Bernstein, if she's got any brains, ought to feel worried. The growth of a large fundamentalist underclass in this part of the world is going to be very damaging to those who hope to enjoy a prosperous and stable economy - not to mention the rest of us who merely want to live in peace. The only person who didn't seem too bothered last week by the proposed NIS 125m. cut in the education budget was ministry director-general Benzion Dell. "It won't really cause harm," he said. The writer is an education journalist.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SELECTIVE CHOICE

Sir, - It is embarrassing to eateb nut the former Chief Rabbi of Great Britain and the Commonwealth in a slight-of-hand manipulation of Jewish sources whereby he selectively chooses his prayers. In his November 29 article, he writes, "in Jewish thought, we pray not to destroy our enemies but to enfold them in our arms."

Undoubtedly, Lord Jakobovits was thinking of the concluding element of the Amidah prayer, said thrice daily, which contains the phrase: "disrupt their design" in reference to those hostile to Judaism.

However, even if we disregard a verse in the next prayer said on fast days and the Ten Days of Repentance, the Avinu Malkeinu, which reads: "avenge hefture nur eyes the spilled blood of your servants," one cannot ignore that the same phrase of "confounded enusel" is contained also in the Al Hanisim prayer said on Purim. There, one is left with no doubt as to what "confound" means.

Referring to the punishment meted out to Haman, the prayer reads: "He [Gnd] caused his [Haman's] design to be confounded and returned to his own head and they hanged him and his sons on the gallows." In addition, on Pessah, during the Seder, we stand, open the dmar and read out: "Pour out Thy wrath on the nations that know These not." Every morning, we repeat the verse of Psalm, saying: "the devout will wreak vengeance with a double-edged sword."

While there is enough evidence that Judaism is not a bloodthirsty religion, nevertheless, even in its post-biblical development, that of the rabbis of the Great Assembly and the post-Talmudic period, it never became the pacifist faith Lord Jakobovits might have us believe. YISRAEL MEDAD Shaibn.

SHELTER FOR HAREDI WOMEN

Sir, - In the course of her interesting article of December 2, Amy Klein writes: "There is no shelter for battered haredi women where this mother of 12 could have gone."

While it is true that there is no specifically haredi shelter, your readers will be interested to learn that there is nevertheless somewhere that battered haredi women can and, indeed, do go; that is to WIZO's shelters for battered women where special arrangements are made to enable them to follow their own Orthodox way of life. These arrangements are fully approved in their circles and even haredi rabbis have on more than one occasion themselves referred women to WIZO.

Further details can be obtained by calling WIZO's Hotlines for Battered Women: 03-5461133; 02-6514111; 08-8550506; 07-6376310. RUTH AHIEZER, Chairman, Publicity and Information Department, WIZO Tel Aviv.

BAR CRITICISM

Sir, - I could not believe my American-oriented eyes when I read your recent report of the scathing attack on Mr. Hater-Yishai, the Israel Bar Association chairman. It seemed as if public officials from the president and the prime minister on down were competing to see who could make the most savage attack on Mr. Hater-Yishai.

If I can judge from your reporters, it seems that the chairman did what would be considered "old hat" in the US. At times, bar officials defend the courts from what is perceived as unfair criticism, but on many occasions, bar officials have made attacks on the courts much like those of Mr. Hater-Yishai. It has not been unheard of for bar officials to claim that some courts follow their own agenda rather than the law, that they do not defer to their legislative betters in making policy and that they do not spend enough time judging. In America, such remarks by a bar official would not even make page 12. PROFESSOR JUSTIN SWEET Jerusalem (Berkeley).

THE STONE OF SCONE

Sir, - On December 1, The Jerusalem Post published an AP report about the return of the Stone of Scone to Scotland, seven centuries after it was captured by Edward I in 1296 and taken to Westminster Abbey in London, where it has served as the coronation seat of English kings. Previously it had been used as the coronation seat of the Scottish kings.

It was also reported that this stone is supposed to originate in the Holy Land and that our patriarch Jacob rested his head on it when he had his dream of a ladder reaching to Heaven.

The stone should be examined by geologists to determine if it did indeed originate from our area. If it did, then the State of Israel is its rightful owner and it should be returned to us. The Knesset would be the stone's logical home and it should be placed under the parliamentary seat of the prime ministers of Israel. BILL OAKFIELD Netanya.

POOR PUBLIC RELATIONS

Sir, - During the last few decades, Arafat and his henchmen have been and still are winning the PR war. Israel has always been pathetic in the conduct of its public relations. The prime minister, when in opposition, was superb in addressing the international audience. Today, he is a shadow of his former self, both in appearance and speech. Perhaps the task is too difficult for him. I would respectfully suggest that he and the Likud government stop pussy-footing around and get on and do the job they were elected for. Furthermore, the prime minister should be seriously advised to cease sleeping his wife with him when he is carrying out his public duties. LESLIE M. RAYNER Tel Aviv (Hove, England).

Plain peace is out, PeacePlus is in

SI FRUMKIN

THERE'S a word for those who expect to be paid for giving love, and it isn't complimentary. Substitute peace for love and it's equally true for former enemies.

Peace is supposed to be an ideal, an end in itself. Which is why Prime Minister Netanyahu hasn't become appropriately enthusiastic about the widely-accepted formula of "land for peace." That's because land for peace really means "land-plus-peace for exist." Peace, like war, cannot exist unilaterally. Israel couldn't remain at war with whoever it gave up land to. It would have to give peace in addition to land.

The Middle East has spawned many weird concepts that are now universally accepted. Is there, for example, any other territory on the planet so consistently described as "occupied" as that of "the Israeli-occupied West Bank"? Tibet is never called "Chinese-occupied." Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia aren't termed "Soviet-occupied." The Middle East also has the only country that cannot have its chosen capital recognized as such; and it is also the only area where

victors in a defensive war are widely expected to appease and reward the losers, those who were the aggressors in the first place. No wonder, then, that the region has given birth to a concept which, with a nod to laundry detergents and toothpaste ads, I would call

Anges Times stated quite seriously that Jordan's King Hussein had tried to restrain himself from criticizing the new Israeli government but could restrain himself no longer. He had to speak out in defense of the Palestinians; to voice his outrage at not being consulted over the tunnel

Call me naive, old-fashioned. But I don't go for 'new, improved' versions

PeacePlus - a new improved version of simple, old-fashioned peace. A spate of media reports tell of Jordanian disappointment over the peace with Israel. It seems that, in concurrence with this novel concept of PeacePlus, Jordan expected economic benefits, an influx of business, improved living standards, a flourishing economy and probably a partridge in a pear tree and some turtles doves as well. A RECENT article in the Los

in Jerusalem, and to express his disappointment at the lack of peace benefits Jordan has gained. This is the same King Hussein who occupied Jerusalem for 19 years and denied access to Jews; who killed thousands of Palestinians during Black September purges in 1970, who did not oppose Saddam Hussein during the Gulf war. Now he feels entitled to PeacePlus benefits from Israel and the Times, US pundits and the State department see nothing funny in it. Why isn't peace enough? Isn't it

enough that no Jordanian soldiers will die from Israeli bullets in future wars? That there will be contacts - negotiations - trade, exchanges - peace. Just peace? Must it be PeacePlus? And if it must, surely it is axiomatic that it should work both ways?

The PeacePlus doctrine is spreading across the Middle East. After five years of fruitless negotiations following its three defeats in three wars of aggression Syria is still insisting on peace plus the Golan, plus who knows what else. Egypt, which got peace plus the Suez canal plus the Sinai desert, is now indicating that it isn't happy. We'd better face it: Peace, in, by and of itself, is a dated concept, hardly worth mentioning. A goal, a shining ideal? Forget it.

As I said at the beginning, there's a word to describe those who want to be paid for love. I don't want to use it in a family newspaper. Nations don't fall in love. But they should desire pure peace. Call me naive. But I mean it - peace, without strings. The writer lives in Studio City, California.

مكتبة

Sitting Pretty

Is This What Women Want?

By STEVEN A. HOLMES

WASHINGTON
THREE years from the end of the millennium, and a more than a century after Ibsen's "A Doll's House" pre-empted women's modern emancipation, the question still vexes: How much power do women really wield?

This year, American women put on the most stunning display of political clout since they won suffrage 76 years ago. More women than ever registered and voted, and on the strength of their votes, President Clinton was re-elected. The growling voice of the angry white man was drowned out by the softer tone of the soccer mom, and issues like family leave and day care were forced into the political debate while abortion was forced out.

And politics is just the start. Women are increasingly courted by designers of homes and makers of cars. The purveyors of popular culture, from books to movies to prime-time television shows and the Summer Olympics, are struggling to appeal to what they think are feminine tastes. Prime-time television is full of shows like "Roseanne," "Cybill," "Ellen" and "Suddenly Susan." Movies like "Waiting to Exhale" and "The First Wives Club" are designed to draw in angry women. Jokes about men behaving badly are rampant,

while snickering about premenstrual syndrome is all but verboten. Houses are now built with larger kitchens and bathrooms. And doctors are being taught bedside manner, because women asked for it. If this does not signal feminine power, then what does?

In hushed tones some feminists and scholars, fearful of frightening men and of ending the revolution by declaring it won, tentatively call this change "gender creep." With women already the majority of voters and poised to become a majority of the work force, society is changing so radically that the much-talked-about feminization of American politics is looking like but one piece of the feminization of American culture.

"It's like a silent revolution," said Linda Tarr-Whelan, president and C.E.O. of the Center for Policy Alternatives, a feminist research organization based in Washington. "It's nonviolent at its core, but it's a very important transformation."

But is it the kind of revolution feminists envisioned when the modern women's movement began, with the publication of Betty Friedan's "The Feminine Mystique" in 1963? Does the feminization of politics and culture mean that women now have more power? Or is it just a slick bit of salesmanship, an attempt to make women whistle while they do all the housework?

Early feminists envisioned women moving en masse into leadership roles in government

Continued on page 3

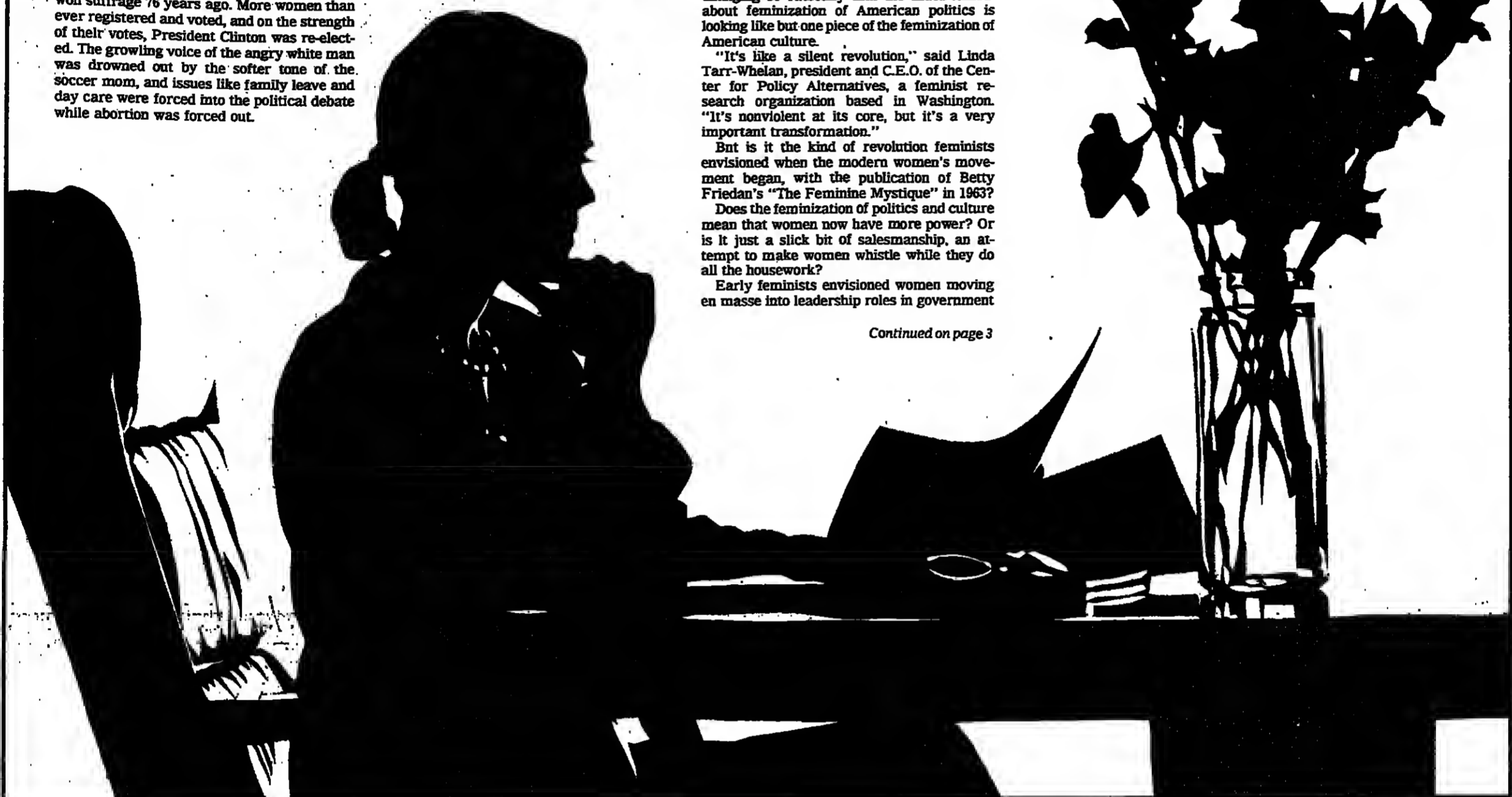


Illustration from photograph by Gabe Pallucci/The Stock Market

Broadcast News

In Spanish, It's Another Story

By LARRY ROHTER

MIAMI
ONE Friday early this month, ABC, CBS and NBC all began their nightly newscasts with the same story: the testimony of Nicole Brown Simpson's mother at the latest O. J. Simpson trial.

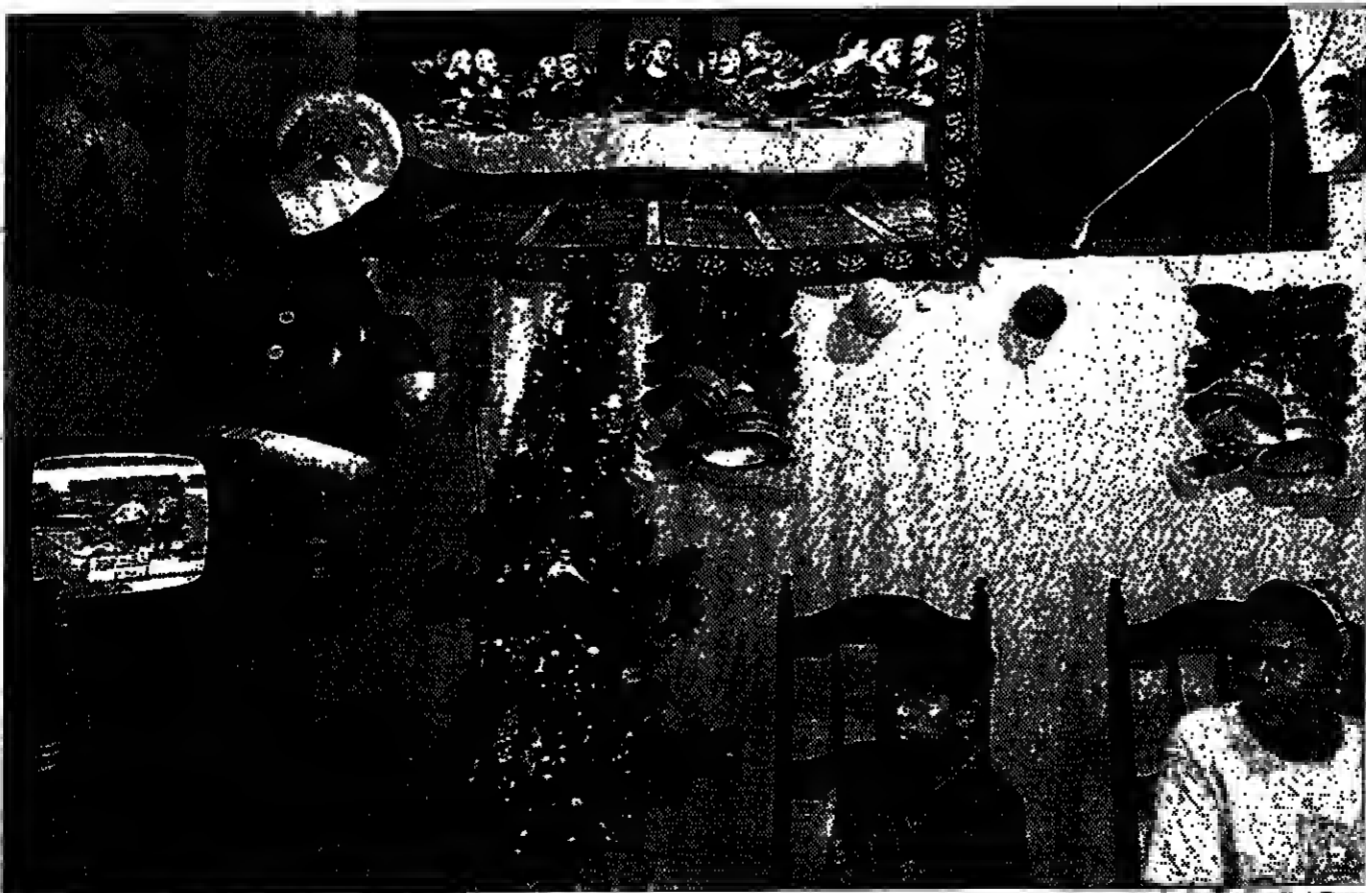
Two other American networks, though, did not report that news until well after the first commercial break. Instead, they opened with a story that was less sensational but of more significance to their viewers: the Mexican Senate's approval of legislation that would allow Mexicans who become American citizens to have dual nationality.

The United States looks like a different country — less self-absorbed and self-contained, and more a member of a community of nations — when it is seen through the Spanish-language television newscasts of Univision and Telemundo, networks that are helping transform Spanish-speaking immigrants into an entity called "Hispanics."

At the same time, these networks, based here in Miami, play a role more intricate than that of their English-language counterparts. Not only do they track and explain developments in the United States and Latin America to this country's potential 25 million Hispanic viewers, but they have also become one of the main prisms through which Latin Americans throughout the hemisphere view their own countries.

Another World

"Even though ABC calls its broadcast 'World News Tonight,' what I see when I look at any of the English-language networks is not the world," said Jorge Ramos, a Mexican who, along with Maria Elena Salinas, anchors "Noticiero Univision," the most influential and highest rated Spanish-language news program in the United States. "If you compare the kind of world that we cover in comparison to what they have in mind, you'll definitely see that our world is broader and more complex, with a very different perspective."



Brennan Linsley for The New York Times

Univision's newscast is also seen in Managua, Nicaragua, where the Herubey family tuned in one evening last week.

According to a 1994 study published by the University of Texas College of Communications, 45 percent of a typical Noticiero Univision broadcast deals with events in Latin America, as compared with less than 2 percent of the main nightly newscast at ABC, which features more international news than either CBS or NBC.

Even when Univision and Telemundo cover the same stories as the Big Three, they do so in a strikingly different manner. In general, stories on the two Spanish-language networks tend to be "longer, with more depth and more analysis than what you see on any of the English-

language networks," said Gonzalo Soruco, a professor of mass communication at the University of Miami who is currently working on a book to be titled "The Evolution of Spanish-Language Television in the United States."

More Bang for the Buck

In part, that is simply a function of economics: since the Univision news budget is about three percent of any of the Big Three, there are fewer reporters to fill the same amount of air time, so longer stories guarantee more bang for the buck. But both networks are influenced

by Latin American traditions of journalism, which, Dr. Soruco pointed out, "prescribe more analysis" and a clear point of view.

At Univision, at least, the nature of that mission is clear to reporters.

"We give a voice to those who have no voice in English and are absent from the major networks, newspapers and magazines," Mr. Ramos said. "We never forget where we come from."

In a separate interview, Ms. Salinas, who was born in California, put it this way: "We are the eyes and ears for

Continued on page 4

Blazing Three Trails

Putting in a good word for the Indian reservation.

By Anthony DePalma

2

Belarus Big Macs

One country that may not be ready for McDonald's.

By Steven Erlanger

4

Drunken Driving

No one's talking about it now. Just doing it.

By Matthew L. Wald

3



Ideas & Trends

Three Countries Face Their Indians

By ANTHONY DePALMA

BACK when it thought it knew best what Indians needed, the Canadian Government decided that a few hundred nomadic hunters who lived in canvas tents in Labrador would be better off in brand new wooden houses.

The Mushuau Innu were moved to new houses built for them in 1967. But in a short time, many of the interior walls were destroyed. The Indians had tried to rip them out because they knew that one big room was easier to heat than several small ones.

A huge cultural gap still separates Indians and the rest of society, not just in Canada but throughout North America. Some 12 million people — called "aboriginals" in Canada, "indigenous people" in Mexico and "Native Americans" in the United States — struggle to live their own lives inside structures built for them by outsiders who thought they knew best.

The three nations of North America were founded on Indian conquests, but in recent years they have dealt with the remnants of their native populations in widely different ways. Canada has tried to break a century of paternalism with billions of dollars in Government aid and huge socioeconomic studies. The United States, having long ago recognized Indians as separate nations, has largely treated them with neglect. And in Mexico, contempt for the Indian population — by far the largest in North America — helped spur a revolution.

But money and attention may not lead to better lives for Indians. The real key seems to be self-government. Several studies have proven that the more power a tribe or nation has to make its own decisions, the greater chance it has of thriving.

Did Reservations Help?

It is the Native Americans in the United States who have been able to achieve the greatest degrees of independence and economic achievement, in large part because the hated reservation system established in the last century provided things now recognized as essential for self-government.

Joseph P. Kalt, a Harvard professor who has studied reservation economics for a decade, said the large Western reservations gave some tribes "a land base over which sovereignty can be effectively organized."

Professor Kalt said other factors also promoted political organization. The Federal Government helped most tribes write their own constitutions, enabling them to establish their own legislatures, executive branches and, in some cases, justice systems.

Then the Indian activism of the 1970's, marked by deadly showdowns at Wounded Knee and other sites, pushed the tribes away from both the Federal Government and the fledgling national Indian movement. Instead, they turned inward to tribal leadership. And where that leadership was strongest, economic development followed.

Deep pockets of poverty endure among the 300 or so reservations. But a study by Professor Kalt and Stephen Cornell of the University of California at San Diego found that, while still rare, there are successful Indian development projects, and they're not just bingo and casinos.

For example, the Choctaw of Philadelphia, Miss., have created jobs not only for most of their own people but for 1,000 non-Indians who enter the reservation to work in factories making plastic utensils for McDonald's restaurants, electrical wiring assemblies for automobile plants and greeting cards. The Salish and Kootenai tribes of the Flathead Reservation in Montana have achieved an unemployment rate below the rest of rural Montana by focusing on agriculture, tourism and recreation jobs.

"Successful tribes are marked by what we call the 'Nike strategy,'" Professor Kalt said. "They build their own institutions and their own bureaucracies, displace the Federal Government as primary decision maker on the reservations and then just do it themselves."

Some reservations in the United States sprawl across state lines and provide a base for independence that Indians in Mexico and

Canada will find difficult to match.

Canada has 633 Indian reserves, most so small that any attempt to consider them sovereign nations falls flat. In Mexico, Indian communities often adhere to boundaries established before European contact and are usually small, isolated and desperately poor.

There remain sharp debates across North America about the right thing to do for Indians. While no government today would knowingly take Canada's paternalistic approach, there is a strong, though not always publicly expressed opinion, that the Indians themselves are to blame for their condition.

Conflicts over fishing, hunting, land claims and other grievances are constant in all three nations, and occasionally resentment by non-Indians burns through. "They are using up whatever good will there was," David Olmstead, a Liberal party member said in a recent speech before the provincial legislature of New Brunswick. Mr. Olmstead said he was fed up with Indians portraying themselves as victims of white domination. Other members of his party quickly distanced themselves, but Mr. Olmstead insisted that he had only expressed what many felt but were afraid to say.

Spirituality Still Sells

Public perceptions of Indians seem split. The geled-lens vision of mystical Indian spirituality still sells well, and in all three countries far more people now want to identify themselves as Indians than are classified that way by their governments. But there is a question of how legitimate some of those claims are. For example, the number of people in New Jersey who identified themselves as Indian in the 1990 census had increased 78 percent from 1980.

And in Mexico City, heroic statues of Indians grace the main boulevards, but racist attitudes keep Indians from going to classy restaurants, even if they could somehow afford to eat in them.

Mexico is where the recent clash for Indian autonomy, mixed with complex political overtones, has been most bloody. Zapatistas of the poor, southernmost state of Chiapas launched a rebellion in the pre-dawn hours of Jan. 1, 1994, the same day that the North American Free Trade Agreement went into effect. Their initial attacks left nearly 200 dead, and they declared NAFTA "a death sentence" for Mexico's 10 million Indians.

The Zapatistas, who gained popular support throughout Mexico and focused attention on the mistreatment of Indians, have suspended peace talks with the Government until there is action on a constitutional guarantee of more self-government, including the right to redraw county boundaries and to use traditional ways of electing officials (by a show of hands instead of a secret ballot).

Violence also ignited change in Canada. After a standoff between the Canadian Army and Mohawk Indians six years ago, Brian Mulroney, who was Prime Minister then, promised a full study of Canada's troubled relationship with its Indians and Eskimos.

The Remedy: Autonomy

When the report was finally released last month, it included 440 recommendations, foremost being recognition of Indian bands as the sovereign nations with which earlier Canadian governments had signed binding treaties. It noted that the appalling conditions on many Indian reserves were due to the lack of economic opportunities. It also found that the degree of political autonomy and endowment of land for Indians in Canada was far behind that in the United States.

After self-government, the most important goal of most Indians is control of their land. The Chiapas conflict was in great measure about land. In Canada, officials say there are 100 pending land claims covering great stretches of every province. The few settlements already made have brought sudden wealth to those Indian communities.

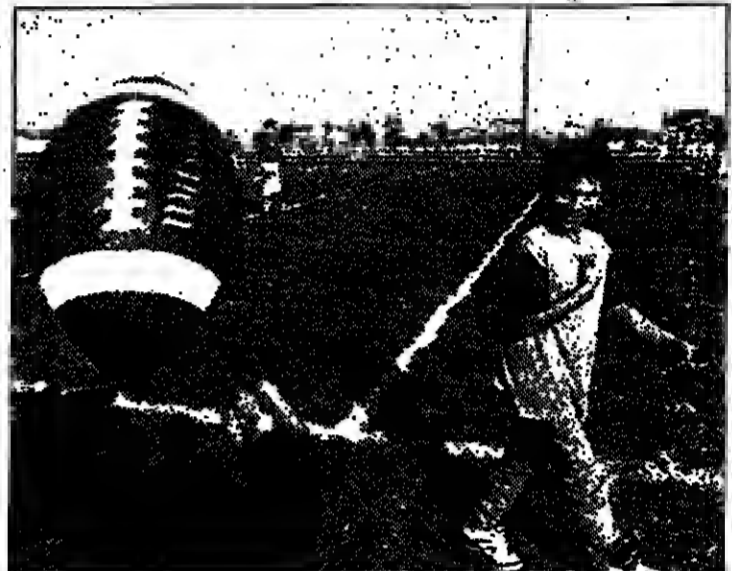
Zebedee Nungak is a leader of the Inuk of northern Quebec, who formed their own corporation to sign off on all business deals on the territory granted them as part of the James Bay Cree settlement in 1975. Mr. Nungak said the Inuk already owned three local airlines and planned to open four plants to process caribou meat.



Mixed Indians in Oaxaca, Mexico, hold a ceremony for the end of the harvest.



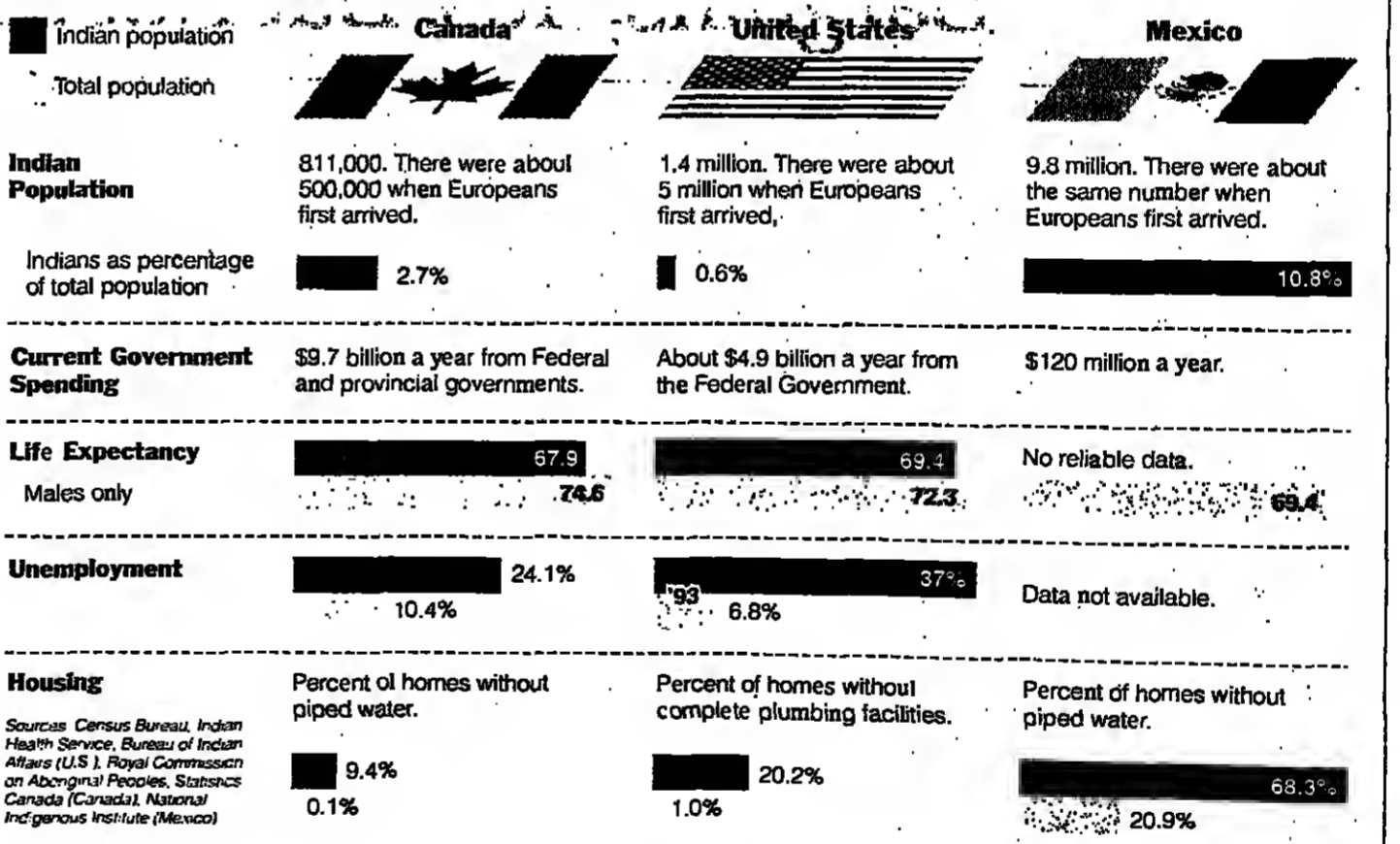
A Cree family in Whapmagoostui, Canada.



A football game at a Sioux reservation in South Dakota.

Native Americans, From Monterrey to Manitoba

Data are for 1991 for Canada and 1990 for Mexico and the United States, except where noted.



"Up to 75 percent of our food still comes from wildlife," Mr. Nungak said. But, he said, the Inuk drive trucks and fly planes: "We're not living in igloos or driving dog sledges any more."

That, many Indian leaders say, is the greatest challenge they face: honoring the

past but surviving in changing times.

Ooe big change is already underway in Canada. In 1999, the vast Northwest Territories will be split in two, and the eastern half will become a new territory called Nunavut. Because most people living in the cold and inhospitable area are Inuit, or Eskimos, they

will have de facto control of the new territory, making Nunavut not a separate nation but the only major part of a North American government run by native people. This experiment, watched with great interest by Indians all over, may be the ultimate test of self-government.

Of Stocks and Speculation

When the Market Is Too Good to Be Good

By LOUIS UCHITELLE

IN the American economy of the 1990's, good news so often turns sour. As employment rises, so do interest rates, to temper the high spirits and keep inflation in check. People buy like crazy and retail sales rise, but once again the response is a nervous concern that too much prosperity will unbalance the economy.

Stock prices had escaped this adverse reaction, going up month after month, and carrying the middle class — with its huge investment in mutual funds — to new levels of wealth on paper. And then the booming stock market, too, became a liability to the economy.

Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve, blew the whistle with his now-famous reference in a speech on Dec. 5 to "irrational exuberance." He did not claim that irrational exuberance had actually infected stock trading, driving up prices in pure speculation beyond their true value. He only asked, "How do we know when irrational exuberance has unduly escalated asset values, which then become subject to unexpected and prolonged contractions?" But in asking that question, he served notice that a rising market can endanger the economy, and the Fed's efforts to regulate it.

Stock prices promptly plunged, here and abroad, in response to Mr. Greenspan's remark. While the Dow Jones industrial average has fluctuated sharply since Dec. 5, stock prices have certainly not resumed the upward march that had made millions of investors so happy for so many months. Clearly, Mr. Greenspan reminded people that stocks can go down as well as up. "It was a question that went to the framework within which one should look at investing," Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin said last week.

Mr. Greenspan's rhetorical reference to the stock market was rare for a Federal Reserve chairman. The last one came from William McChesney Martin in 1965. He compared the prosperity of the mid-1960's with that of the 1920's. He made no mention of the 1929 crash, but the immediate response to Mr. Martin's comment was a sharp drop in stock prices. His timing was good. While the Dow Jones average



Stephen Crowley/The New York Times
Alan Greenspan.

soon recovered and rose to a new high, by mid-1966 the bull market was over and speculation ceased to be a danger.

That is not yet the case for Mr. Greenspan. The rising stock prices that seemed such strong evidence of a healthy corporate sector and a strong economy might instead be evidence that stock trading has entered into the realm of speculation.

With such a market as backdrop, the Fed becomes hamstrung as the nation's chief regulator of economic growth, and its actions can misfire. When the Fed's policy makers decide that economic growth is too strong, and potentially inflationary, they raise interest rates to discourage the borrowing that oils the economy. But shareholders frequently respond to higher interest rates by shifting out of stocks into Treasury bills and similar securities that pay interest. If that shift takes place during a period of speculation on the stock market, the plunge in stock prices might be sharp,

inflicting its own damage on consumer confidence.

"If there is a sell-off," said Henry Kaufman, an economist, "then Mr. Greenspan is on record as having warned that this could be a problem."

On the other hand, the economy could weaken in the eyes of Fed policy makers, in which case their standard response is to lower interest rates to encourage borrowing and spending. But the response on Wall Street to lower rates is to buy stocks, which in a speculative market might result in too much buying.

"If Alan Greenspan were to decide that he needs to raise interest rates, he could end up pricking the stock market bubble and causing a crash," said David Jones, chief economist of Aubrey G. Lanston, a Wall Street firm. "And if he were to lower rates, that could encourage even more speculation. I think his whole sense of timing is forward looking. He is worried that speculation might limit his policy options in the future."

Right now, Mr. Greenspan and his colleagues — the governors and presidents of the Fed's regional banks — seem willing to leave interest rates alone. In the view of most Fed watchers, they will decide at their next meeting, on Tuesday, that the economy is neither too strong nor too weak. But that cannot last, and Mr. Greenspan, bracing for the future, has already served notice that rising stock prices are no longer good news.

The Nation

A Fading Drumbeat Against Drunken Driving

By MATTHEW L. WALD

THE people who lead the national campaign against drunken driving say that something frustrating and sad has happened to their 15-year campaign: it has gotten old. The crusade helped cut the number of alcohol-related deaths by 40 percent, but the sermon seems to be wearing off, and the number of deaths is rising again.

There were 17,274 deaths on the roads last year related to alcohol, up from 16,580 in 1994, the first increase in the 1990's and by far the steepest increase since drunken driving became a national issue in the

Public attention flags, and alcohol-related traffic deaths start to rise.

early 1980's. There are other, less tangible signs, too. "It's harder and harder for us to get major media coverage," said Katherine Prescott, national president of Mothers Against Drunk Driving. She said grant money, once easy to get, has gone in the last few years to a succession of other worthy causes: rape victims, then child abuse victims and, most recently, victims of domestic violence. Membership in her group is steady, she said, with each crash death bringing new recruits, but fund-raising is off.

More subtly, the subject has slipped off the center of the conversational map. "The important thing is, are everyday people talking about it?" said Sandra J. Ball-Rokeach, a professor of communications and sociology at the Annenberg School of Communication at the University of Southern California. And right now, she continued, "it's not really at the center of interpersonal discourse."

Eternal vigilance, it seems, is the price of sobriety. And vigilance is not a strong point in the American

character, or Jefferson wouldn't have made his observation about vigilance in the first place.

With drinking and driving, as with drugs and smoking, public health responds to a certain level of public hectoring, and then tends to suffer relapses when it stops. A long campaign, waged with news stories about individual tragedies, by broadcast and print public service ads, and even by writing designated drivers into the scripts of television shows, resulted not just in stricter laws and law enforcement but in changed public norms.

Joking Around

"I can remember when it was just fine to leave a party half-smashed; that's not the case now," said Ms. Ball-Rokeach. But even some of that has slipped away: Ms. Ball-Rokeach said she recently heard someone at a party, drink in hand, making a joke that probably wouldn't have been considered funny five years ago: the guest wanted to be a "designated drinker." But in the current climate, the joke is acceptable, she said.

The cause-and-effect relationship here is murky. Are there more deaths, and more complacency, because the assignment editors and the people who choose public service ads now are less interested? Or is the loss of enthusiasm in the media a sign of society's having moved on, and thus an effect rather than a cause?

Dr. C. Everett Koop, who was President Ronald Reagan's surgeon general, said that the loss of public attention is the root of bad behavior, and that no one is focusing public attention now.

"If there is not an authoritative voice that continues to hammer away at a single problem, it tends to be missed," he said. Dr. Koop hammered away at tobacco, and the smoking rate was at 26 percent when he left office in 1989, he said, as against 30 percent now. In between were surgeons general who did not make a public assault on tobacco their cause, he said.

Jay A. Winsten, director of the Center for Health Communication at the Harvard School of Public Health, sees "a direct relationship between media coverage and drunk driving fatalities."

"There were two periods of unusually high media attention to drunk driving; the first was in 1983 and 1984, and it was largely the work of groups like MADD," he said. "The second was in 1989, '90, '91 and '92, with a hefty representation of the designated driver."



At a vigil last week at the courthouse in Hackensack, N.J., a 30-foot scroll listed drunken driving victims.

"During each high-media period, alcohol-related traffic fatalities, corrected for vehicle miles driven, fell twice as rapidly as during the intervening low-media periods."

The death rate per 100 million miles traveled — a standard measure of traffic — fell rapidly in the early 1980's, from 1.58 in 1982 to 1.28 in 1985. After a slight increase, the rate resumed a firm downward path after safety advocates popularized the designated driver, in 1988, from 1.17 that year to 0.70 in 1994. Last year, it rose to 0.72.

The rate continued to fall even after Congress allowed the speed limit to rise to 65 miles an hour on rural interstates in 1987. The lifting of all Federal speed limits last year would not yet be reflected in the accident statistics, experts say.

Too Successful

A major engine of the public attention has been public service announcements. At the Advertising Council, which produces many of them, Ruth A. Wooden, the president, said that, in part, the campaign worked its way out of a job. "It's not at the top of the agenda now," she said of drunken driving, "but in a way that's related to its success; it's a problem solved, in a way, and let's go on to something else."

Except that it isn't really solved.

"If anybody would have told me 15 years ago that this many people, 17,000 people, would still be dying on the road, I would not have believed it," said Ms. Prescott of MADD, who said the driver who killed her son had had two convictions for drunken driving before that crash and two after. Now, she said, the problem may be down to a hard core of alcoholics who do not respond to public appeals.

But the mood in society does matter, other experts say. It affects the number of sobriety checkpoints the police erect, the odds that a judge or jury will send someone to jail or into a mandatory treatment program, and the likelihood that a bartender or host or fellow partygoer will take away someone's keys. None of these is easy to measure with statistics.

One more quantifiable trend is the passage of new laws; in the most recent legislative session, 11 states considered proposals to change the blood alcohol level that defines drunken driving from .10 to .08 percent; none approved the change.

There is no end to the campaign, said Dr. Winsten, like those against drugs and violence. "These problems are never going to go away," he said. "They need to be managed over time. When we turn our attention away from them, they're going to pop up."

Selling America on Superstores

Bargains, Yes. But Not in Our Backyards.

By KIRK JOHNSON

THERE was something touching and sweetly small-townish about the stand taken by the New York City Council against the influx of more superstores in the nation's largest city. The Council's rejection of Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani's re-zoning plan last week reinforced what the Kmart and Home Depots have recently discovered: New Yorkers aren't some weird breed apart. They are like everyone else.

New Yorkers are just as susceptible to buying in bulk as suburbanites. They are more than ready to load up on gallons of olive oil, five-pound jars of gourmet popcorn, half-priced toilet seats and children's clothing at one stop. And like people everywhere, they worry about what goes in their backyard. Just as wary and reluctant are the many, regular-size stores that sell the very same goods.

Megastores have met local opposition before. Sometimes they have even retreated in the face of public relations assaults about disappearing downtowns and endangered businesses that can find no place in the Mixmaster of national chain merchandising. The threat of a new Walmart can rouse small towns to fight back, sometimes successfully.

The big stores, however, usually move in, and capitalism wins out in the end. Americans always buy more than what they planned to get, even if the result isn't really to their liking. In effect shoppers can have it



The first Kmart in New York City opened this year in Manhattan near Macy's.

both ways: They can be nostalgic about the good old days of small, neighborhood mom-and-pops (the worn wooden floors and the musty, penny-candied shelves) even as they do them in by loading up on all the bulk-pack toilet paper and mass quantities of cocktail weenies that mom-and-pops never sold, because customers never thought to ask for them.

In New York City, the love-it-hate-it megastore paradox is even more pronounced, because to much of the world, New York City means shopping. For all the talk about mall envy driving New Yorkers to shop in the suburbs, many of the new super-sized retailers in New York City, like the Bed Bath & Beyond that anchors a revitalized lower Sixth Avenue strip with a Barnes

& Noble, say it's the other way around. A sizable part of their customer base depends not on New Yorkers but on the tourists and suburbanites who flock to the city to shop — as they always have.

In a very real way New York City, a manufacturing hub in the industrial revolution, invented super-scale shopping. Nineteenth-century mercantile palaces like A. T. Stewart's dry goods store helped usher in consumerism after the Civil War. In this century, R. H. Macy defined big and then marched out on a national road show, taking the city's retailing imprint to the mall.

The city also pioneered the concept of zoning laws. New York City zoning sounds fiercely specific about what shall be and what shall not be allowed. It is a reflection of the ever prickly local culture: the fiefs, politics and beleaguered citizenry. The city, however, needs the revenues, taxes and jobs that the superstores bring in. Mr. Giuliani argued, since it lost its famed manufacturing base and jobs traveled not only to New Jersey but to South Dakota and Florida.

For the most part, however, the suburban superstores have avoided New York City not because of the zoning laws but because of business basics like high electricity and real estate costs, taxes, rents and what is known in the trade as high shrinkage, which is a polite way of saying that the city is seen to have more than its share of shoplifters, larcenous staff and organized crime lords. The big stores also stayed out of New York City because they could make more money in the suburbs. Now suburbia is saturated with stores and New York City looks com-

Megastores give people more of what they think they need.

paratively inviting, despite the costs, zoning and hassles. They have been using loopholes to get around zoning difficulties. Home Depot, for example, gained its foothold in the outer boroughs as a hardware store.

While Home Depot, Walmart and others were multiplying in the suburbs, they were also changing the face of retailing. The new breed of stores offers the shopper more to love and to fear. Today, computers help shape store inventories to local markets; instant databases show what products move, how to display them, when and at what price. It's like a mom-and-pop pumped up on steroids — big stores make it their business to know the customers, quirks and all.

If the New York City megastore debate is really about economic self-determination — giving residents a say in what their neighborhoods should be — Council members might do well to recall how ineffective the current zoning pattern was as a vehicle for making the city a certain kind of place. It was enacted in the 1960's and 1970's based on the rash declaration that New York City was, and always should be, a manufacturing town.

Is This What Women Want?

Continued From Page 1

and business and men taking more time off from their jobs to share more of the workload at home. But men still dominate the top slots in the executive suites and in still dominate the top slots in the government. And working women still do 87 percent of the shopping, 81 percent of the cooking, 78 percent of the cleaning and 63 percent of the bill-paying, according to a 1993 study by the Family and Work Institute. And that's a burden that single mothers, whose ranks are growing, can only dream of.

The disparity between women's political, economic and demographic clout and their limited status raises beguiling questions about the definition of power. Which is the better yardstick to measure women's achievement: increased representation in positions of power or increased influence on the decisions of powerful people? Should feminism be considered a success if it has not managed to get as many women to the top as men, but has won more flex time, longer shopping hours, more concern for safety, more interest in education?

"In some ways it's the best of the feminist movement in keeping our eyes on the prize in terms of what I would call these quality-of-life issues, so that the issue is not just simply becoming the C.E.O., but how do we reframe the workplace so that it's better for all of us?" said Dr. Paula Rayman, executive director of the Radcliffe Public Policy Institute. "That to me is the feminist issue, not just how we can do it better than the guys in their own terms."

But other feminists suggest that political and business elites have simply figured out more creative ways to sell goods, services and candidates to women

without fundamentally improving their lot. As women enter the labor force, do most of the housework, and remain the prime targets of advertisements, the female stereotype is changing from barefoot and pregnant to debt-ridden and tired.

'All Feminism Got Us Is More Work'

"That may be feeding some of the backlash against feminism among some women," said Heidi I. Hartman, executive director of the Institute for Women's Policy Studies, a Washington research group that just released a state-by-state report on American women. "People are saying that all feminism ever got us is more work."

There is little question, though, that the country has felt some big shifts over the last two and a half decades. Since 1970, women have grown to about half the country's labor force, and are less inclined to stop working when they have children. More female high school graduates, 63 percent, enter college, compared to 61 percent of male graduates. The number of women-owned businesses has increased by 43 percent from 1987 to 1992.

In addition to dramatic increases in the number of married women who work, there have been huge jumps in the number of women who live alone and in families headed by single mothers. All these trends mean that women are increasingly making political and economic decisions independently of men, rather than merely bending to the directives of husbands and fathers.

Because women are making more of the decisions, the producers of big-ticket goods and services are increasingly trying to appeal to them. Women, for example, now buy about half the new cars and about 25 percent of

light trucks, including sport utility vehicles and minivans, according to J. D. Power and Associates. So, auto-makers are changing how they design and market cars, emphasizing safety and convenience, which women care more about, and playing down speed and power. In the 1970's when auto-makers, prodded by the Federal Government, tried to introduce air bags, the mainly male car-buying public rebelled. Today, air bags are a standard feature on all new cars and are promoted heavily in ads.

In the area of health — an industry that represents about one-seventh of the American economy — 75 percent of the purchasing decisions for families are made, by women or are significantly influenced by them. As a consequence, some large health providers like Kaiser Permanente have developed new programs to train and retrain their doctors in the art of communications, an area in which women feel physicians are lacking.

Women are changing television, too. They are now the target audience not only for daytime television but for prime-time television. "The primary, No. 1 audience segment in television is adult women under the 55 years of age," said David Poltrack, executive vice president of planning and research at CBS. And that is why there are so many shows tailored to them.

Women are even influencing sports programming, an area traditionally dominated by men. In its coverage of the Olympics in Atlanta, NBC unabashedly wooed women, reducing its coverage of boxing and larding the events with profiles and human interest stories. While some sports fans derided the coverage as the "soap opera Olympics," NBC's ratings were boosted by about 25 percent over the 1992 and 1988 games, and it was largely due to women. Other networks took note. CBS,

which lost a lot of its sports programming, is carrying professional figure skating competitions, and next year it will add professional women's basketball, professional gymnastics and world cup skiing, all popular with women.

"I don't want to exaggerate things," said Rob Correa, vice president of sports programming on CBS. "But a lot more girls are playing sports than there were 15 years ago. It's incredible. They may be tomorrow's weekend viewers."

The Big House

But whether it is women's consumption of television, cars or health care, the question remains the same. Is consumer power real power? Perhaps the one consumer item that best illustrates this conundrum is the American house. Officials in the home-building industry say that the average size of a home has grown from 1,500 square feet in the early 1970's to more than 2,100 square feet today, even though the average family size has decreased. Most of that increase is the result of larger kitchens, bathrooms and family rooms, features the building industry has found that women, more than men, are demanding. "When people buy the home they say 80 percent of the decisions are joint ones," said Gopal Ahluwalia, director of research for the National Home Builders Association. "But you can't sell a home unless it has a really good quality kitchen with upgraded appliances and plenty of space. So we think it is the female who has the more power."

But it is also possible that houses are getting bigger to make women forget that they are still trapped in them.

The World

A Country Burgers Can't Save

By STEVEN ERLANGER

WASHINGTON
F McDonald's restaurants are a harbinger of Western institutions and democracy. Belarus has a lot of Big Macs yet to swallow.

The country's first McDonald's opened last week, in Minsk, the capital. But this watershed event produced a riot among 4,000 people who thought they'd get free fries.

Then the police, as befits the constitutional dictatorship that Belarus has now become, waded away with their clubs.

In time, McDonald's may help to produce a peace-loving democracy in Belarus, but for now its experience only serves to point up the incoherent, even bizarre, politics of the lands that lie just beyond the Central European countries that NATO is trying to absorb. It tells a lot about why countries like Poland and the Czech Republic are so eager to join NATO, but also points up some of the dangers if they do.

Over the last few weeks, President Aleksandr Lukashenko has effectively seized power in Belarus, and aside from the magic of McDonald's, the United States doesn't have many effective levers with which to encourage him to back down.

A Dictator Rises

The unpredictable Mr. Lukashenko has carried out a rolling coup: manipulating a referendum to extend his term and powers; shutting down the parliament and recreating one limited to his supporters; pushing the resignation of members of the constitutional court and the chief prosecutor, and blocking the distribution of independent newspapers.

"Lukashenko has taken over the Government through nondemocratic means," a senior American official said. "This is now a constitutional dictatorship in the heart of the

new Europe, right on the borders of where NATO is going to expand, and there's not a lot we can do about it."

Belarus, while a tragedy, is not yet a crisis. But it is, writ small, an example of worrisome trends throughout the former Soviet Union, where presidential manipulation or distortion of short-lived democratic institutions are something of a norm.

In Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and even Armenia, there have been egregious examples of electoral manipulation or an overstepping of presidential powers in the name of efficiency and economic reform.

At the same time, Russia itself has grown more haughty toward its former colonies, with demands, backed up through pressure on energy supplies, for better economic, trade and military ties.

No one has loudly objected when Russia has turned imperiously toward the east and Central Asia. But the west — Ukraine, Belarus, the Baltic nations — is quite a different matter. These are the "borderlands" between Europe and Asia, between the powers of the East and West, and this makes them a source of nervousness for everyone. Mr. Lukashenko himself, a populist former collective farm boss, is considered highly unreliable.

Paul A. Gobie, a former intelligence analyst and now assistant director of Radio Free Europe, says that when NATO moves eastward to take in Poland, the Russians may say in response, "We have to project power," and Moscow is likely to do that through Belarus.

A senior American official agreed, then asked: "And where does that put Ukraine? That's why Belarus is important."

Mr. Lukashenko, who is thought to have political ambitions in Russia, has called for the reunification of Minsk with Moscow, and has offered to station nuclear weapons in Belarus to counter any NATO deployments in new member countries — an option that NATO, for now, says is unnecessary.

Ukraine, on the other hand, would only fear a greater Russian presence and pressure to its north.

The United States and its allies have condemned events in Belarus and the American Ambassador, Kenneth Yalowitz, has been called back to help think through what to do about the country, in talks scheduled for Friday.

A Lack of Clout

But Washington has little to work with to overturn the swing to dictatorship. The United States is providing about \$225 million in aid to Ukraine, about \$100 million to Russia and \$95 million to Armenia, but Belarus gets only about \$5 million, nearly all of it going to nongovernmental institutions that are still trying to "build democracy" in a place where it is being snuffed out. And cutting off that aid would not cause Mr. Lukashenko any pain.

Washington has also offered and committed \$118 million over the last four years to pay for the removal of Belarus's nuclear warheads and missiles (now accomplished to great sighs of relief) and the destruction of launching pads, silos, garages and so on (crucial jobs still left to do).

But yearly certification, based in part on progress in human rights and democracy, is required for this money to be spent, and President Clinton can't waive this requirement, even on national-security grounds. Ironically, then, the Administration may be forced to withhold the money it wants to spend in Belarus without any prospect that withholding it will produce any change for the better.

To further the dilemma, the one actor with leverage on Belarus is Russia. But therein lies a Catch-22. "We want to keep Russia engaged, but we don't want to reinforce the sense that Belarus belongs to the Russian sphere of influence," an official said ruefully. "That could be very counterproductive."



The opening of Belarus's first McDonald's drew thousands — and, later, a riot.

Broadcast News

In Spanish, It's Another Story

Continued From Page 1

Latinos in the United States, their liaison to their neighborhood and their country."

The Spanish-language networks have a very different sense of what is news. Early this year, for instance, all three English-language networks and CNN briefly broadcast footage from a Patrick J. Buchanan campaign rally in Arizona in which a young Hispanic voter challenged the Republican candidate's opposition to immigration and free trade. Univision, however, followed up on the initial controversy by tracking down the youth, 18-year-old Marciano Murillo, to his high school in Gila Bend.

There they quickly discovered he was the son of an "undocumented worker" from Mexico (the Spanish-language networks never use the term "illegal immigrant" unless they are quoting someone). The American-born teen-ager, who has worked in the fields with his parents since he was 9 years old, told the network, "I'm always going to defend my people."

Similarly, during the 1993 flap about child care that followed President Clinton's aborted nomination of Zoë Baird as Attorney General, it was the Spanish-language networks that made a point of seeking out Hispanic women who work as nannies and housekeepers and listening to their tales of abuse and exploitation. English-language coverage, by contrast, focused on the plight of the middle-class professional couples who typically employed those women.

The differences go beyond editorial content. While CBS's much-ballyhooed experiment with Dan Rather and Connie Chung as joint anchors failed, both Spanish-language networks, representatives of a culture supposedly mired in machismo, have paired male and female anchors for nearly a decade with no apparent problems.

"There are many stereotypes and prejudices and biases that we have been breaking down without anyone noticing," Mr. Ramos said.

What the Ads Say

Even commercials can be instructive in that regard, particularly those that demolish the myth that newly-arrived Hispanic immigrants do not want to learn English.

One of the largest types of advertisements on any Spanish-language television station, in fact, are the multitude of schools and home-study programs that teach English. These ads stress that the key to advancement in the United States is a command of the nation's dominant language.

In one typical ad, a husband sorrowfully informs his wife he has been passed over for a better job because his English just isn't good enough. But six months later, after taking the

Inglés sin Barreras (English Without Barriers) course, he is able to tell his family over dinner that he has won that coveted promotion to manager because he is now fully bilingual. "Gimme five," one of his children says to him, in English. "Way to go, Dad," another proudly proclaims.

Seen in Latin America

Increasingly, Univision and Telemundo are also helping form the image that the rest of the Western Hemisphere has of life in the United States. One or the other is available on virtually every cable system in Latin America. And in smaller, poorer countries, local television stations often simply tape stories from Univision or Telemundo's nightly newscasts for their own use, which gives these American networks a degree of credibility and visibility unusual in the region.

"With Univision and Telemundo, I know that what I am seeing has not been subject to any form of censorship by the government or political

CBS talks to yuppie couples. Univision interviews their Hispanic nannies.

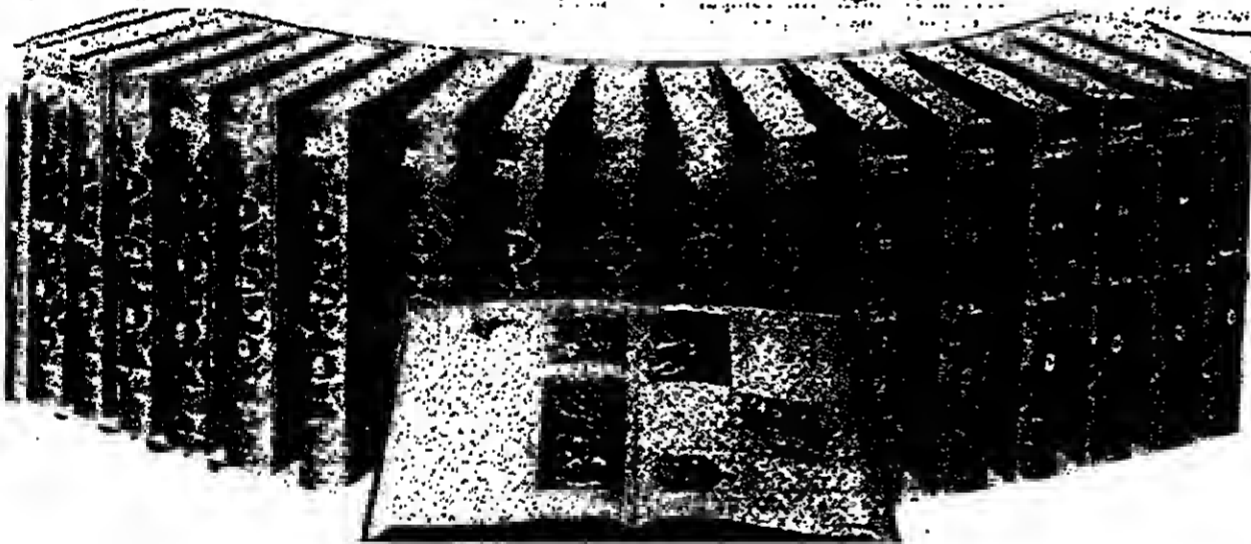
parties, and isn't slanted to favor the interests of some local bigwig." Rafael Salazar Navarrete, an engineer who lives in Nicaragua, said recently. "I certainly can't say that about my local stations or those submissive Mexican channels that are also on my cable system."

Within the United States, that approach appears to have broad appeal both to recently arrived immigrants and more acculturated Hispanic-Americans.

When the Univision affiliate here, WLTV, surged past the CBS, NBC and Fox stations in news ratings, those astonished affiliates were quick to attribute the results to sampling error, apparently unable to imagine that Spanish-speaking viewers, who comprise a majority here, just might prefer substance to the usual English-language formula of happy talk and mayhem, and the routine mispronunciation of Hispanic names.

"Though not perfect, Univision and Telemundo provide a Latino perspective that no one else will," said Federico Subervi, an expert on Spanish-language media who teaches at the University of Texas. "Along with the Spanish language itself, they are the glue of Latino identity across the country."

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ECONOMY

Will Ford Motor Co. Become the New Repo Man?

By ROBYN MEREDITH

HENRY FORD famously insisted that buyers could have any color of car they wanted, as long as it was black. But he was just as reluctant to offer them credit. Only in 1923, two decades after he began selling cars, did he begin to experiment, cautiously, with financing. Ford customers could buy a \$265 Model T on layaway, paying \$5 a week for a year. Only then were they allowed to drive the shiny black car home. (Not until four years later did Mr. Ford give in to demands for more colors.)

Ford long ago overcame its founder's misgivings about making loans. With Americans now financing four-fifths of all new cars, the Ford Motor Company has earned more as a banker than as a car builder in five of the last six years. Its banking businesses had higher profits last year than all but two of the nation's commercial banks.

And while Ford's automotive divisions are struggling to hold up against stiff competition worldwide, a subsidiary, the Ford Motor Credit Company, has become the biggest auto financing company in the world. In the third quarter, Ford Credit earned \$299 million, compared with a paltry \$15 million for the company's worldwide automotive operations.

Now Ford Credit has an ambitious plan to extend its lending reach into an area that would have baffled Henry Ford: borrowers with proven records of not paying back their loans on time, a group collectively

known as the subprime lending market.

The lure is the \$100 billion that people with flawed credit ratings borrow each year to buy new and used cars, and the interest rates of 18 percent and higher that Ford will be able to charge on loans to its share of that market. That is the equivalent of paying for a car at credit-card rates.

Ford Credit's new business is risky on two counts. First, whether a company makes money depends on which loan applicants it decides to trust, and how far it trusts them before sending out the repo man to seize the collateral. Secondly, Ford's image could be damaged if the company is seen as profiting at the expense of the poor.

Consumer advocates already say a Ford consumer lending unit, the Associates, charges unfairly steep interest rates and fees. That unit's target market is similar to that of the new subprime auto-finance operation, named Fairlane Credit after Henry Ford's gracious Fair Lane estate here.

"Ford Motor Credit doesn't want to be seen charging 40 percent interest rates or repossessing cars," said Jordan Hymowitz, an auto services analyst at Montgomery Securities in San Francisco. "It is a potential public relations problem if the rates get too egregious."

But at a time when profits are down and default rates are up at Ford Credit, the cornerstone of Ford's financial businesses, its executives say they have studied the companies in the subprime lending market, are proceeding cautiously and are confident they can make good money.

Ford is also planning to move slowly to build its new business. "We aren't going to make any big, bad boo-boos" with Fairlane, William E. Odom, the chairman of Ford Credit, said.

But he said he expected Fairlane's returns to be more volatile than its parent's. Fairlane must be tough enough to compete with the dozens of scrappy, small companies that dominate subprime auto lending. But Fairlane will be walking a tightrope, particularly on the repossessions that come after people stop making car payments.

"If we pull the trigger too quickly on a repo, the customer is going to be upset with us and with the Ford Motor Company," Jerry Heimlicher, president of Fairlane, said.

Mr. Heimlicher said that Fairlane had not decided what interest rates it would charge, but that he expected them to be in a range of 18 to 22 percent, and perhaps higher. While other subprime lenders charge rates of 18 to 40 percent, where state laws permit, Mr. Heimlicher said Fairlane's rates "will never get into the range of 40 percent."

He added, "We are going to charge the fairest rates that we can charge, and still make a fair rate of profit."

Fairlane is planning to hold the line on rates because it hopes to build loyalty to Ford vehicles. One reason Ford Credit chose the name Fairlane is that executives want customers to think of it as "fair."

Mr. Odom said consumer groups should not fear that Fairlane will treat poor customers unfairly. "It is not inconsistent to go into the on-prime business and run the business on the high road," he said.

When deciding whether to approve loan applications, lenders look at two factors: borrowers' income, and their record of repaying other loans. They often charge higher interest rates to people they consider less likely to pay them back.

Ford credit now lends primarily to the most creditworthy borrowers, what the industry rates as A or B credit risks, though it makes some loans to people with very poor credit. As Fairlane starts up, Ford Credit will begin referring the loan applicants it rejects to Fairlane, to see if they qualify under its underwriting standards for higher-interest loans.

Ford Credit assigns A ratings to people who earn enough to meet their bills without strain and have almost never paid a bill late, Mr. Odom said. Borrowers with B credit have occasionally missed payments but later paid up, and lack financial reserves to cover emergencies; people with C credit are highly indebted and often late with bills, but always pay up eventually.

Borrowers with D credit typically have declared bankruptcy and have had property repossessed. They end up paying lots of late charges because they never pay on time. "They try to juggle, but they drop the ball when they juggle," Mr. Odom said. "The C can juggle pretty well."

Fairlane will focus on the lower end of the scale. "Fairlane will pick up where Ford Credit leaves off," Mr. Heimlicher said. "We would be going into the C and D and what would be an E, if there were an E."

Customers will feel the difference when they apply for a loan. While Ford Credit uses sophisticated computer models to approve loans within an hour, Fairlane may take days to check the assertions made on loan applications.

The more thorough process is intended to sort out people who have bad credit but will repay their loans from those who are unlikely to make payments. Fairlane's customers are likely to have bad credit because of a one-time crisis like a layoff or a divorce, Mr. Heimlicher said.

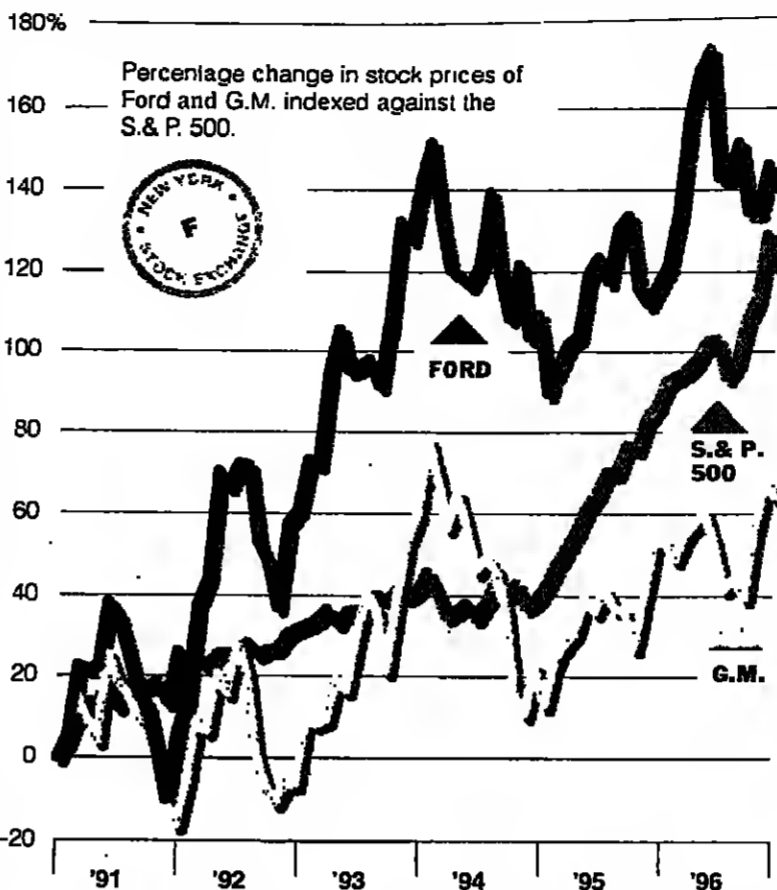
"Our main process is to determine the why — why did the customer have the difficulty," he said. "These are not burns — these are not always people who are going to have bad luck."

Once Fairlane approves a loan, it plans to keep in close contact with anyone who misses a payment. Mr. Heimlicher calls it "coaching": When borrowers fall behind, the company will not simply mail overdue notices but will call the debtors, weigh whether there are legitimate reasons for the late payments, and then try to coax them into promising, for example, to pay when the next paycheck arrives.

While most subprime lenders fo-

An Auto Maker and a Banker

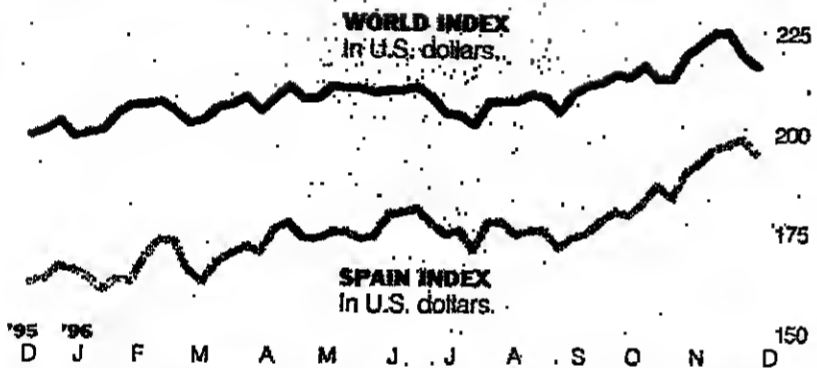
The giant auto maker is the world's second-biggest industrial company. But financial services represent a big share of its profits.



FINANCIAL INDICATORS	
Friday's close	\$32.00
52-week low; high	\$37.25; \$27.25
Market capitalization	\$35.8 billion
Estimated 1996 earnings, analysis' consensus	\$3.48 a share
Debt-to-asset ratio	60%
Ford vs. G.M.	
Price to estimated 1996 earnings	9.5 9.7
Price to book	1.5 2.0
Dividend yield	4.8% 2.8%

NET INCOME	
\$6 billion	
4	
2	
AUTOMOTIVE	
FINANCIAL SERVICES	
'93 '94 '95 '96	
Includes \$440 million loss related to sale of thrift through '90	

WORLD STOCK MARKETS



Prepared by Goldman, Sachs & Co. using data derived from the Financial Times/Standard & Poor's Actuaries World Indices, a measure of stock market performance. The FT indices are compiled jointly by The Financial Times Limited, Goldman, Sachs & Co. and Standard & Poor's, in conjunction with the Institute of Actuaries and Faculty of Actuaries.

Country	PERFORMANCE IN U.S. DOLLARS				IN LOCAL CURR.			
	Index	Week % Chg.	Rank	YTD % Chg.	Index	Week % Chg.	YTD % Chg.	Dividend Yield
Australia	211.11	-0.4	8	11.1	18	4.31	176.89	4.1
Austria	185.37	0.8	2	6.2	20	1.92	148.97	14.8
Belgium	221.31	-1.7	20	5.8	21	3.84	173.83	14.5
Brazil	180.03	-2.6	25	30.5	1	1.78	344.24	39.5
Britain	264.87	1.3	1	14.9	13	4.01	236.83	7.6
Canada	183.76	-1.7	19	23.8	5	2.00	181.10	23.5
Denmark	334.25	-0.1	5	15.7	11	1.71	268.92	23.6
Finland	234.95	-3.6	26	25.6	3	2.20	228.00	33.7
France	204.12	-1.5	16	13.8	15	2.92	187.19	21.5
Germany	163.73	-0.2	6	12.2	16	1.64	147.73	21.3
Hong Kong	486.44	-2.4	24	25.5	4	3.22	483.35	25.6
Indonesia	222.65	-1.9	21		27	1.61	231.39	
Ireland	310.29	0.0	3	21.4	8	3.48	263.29	17.2
Italy	79.11	-2.2	23	7.3	19	2.30	90.24	3.3
Japan	133.80	-2.0	22	-13.6	24	0.80	96.28	-4.7
Malaysia	581.94	-0.3	7	20.0	9	1.10	565.57	19.2
Mexico	1,153.32	-3.7	27	11.3	17	1.10	9,992.01	14.5
Netherlands	313.78	-1.6	17	15.1	12	2.97	248.51	24.5
New Zealand	91.25	-0.7	12	14.6	14	3.99	69.03	6.7
Norway	279.39	-0.8	9	20.8	7	2.06	245.81	23.8
Philippines	200.54	-0.6	10		28	0.63	262.79	
Singapore	409.00	-0.7	13	0.4	23	1.02	263.74	-0.6
South Africa	306.12	-3.9	28	-20.6	25	2.48	316.71	3.2
Spain	198.92	-1.4	14	20.4	8	3.06	196.11	29.2
Sweden	404.19	-1.6	18	29.5	2	2.09	407.45	33.1
Switzerland	237.38	-0.7	11	0.6	22	1.53	193.65	15.0
Thailand	107.28	-0.0	4	-36.2	26	3.22	106.45	-35.3
United States	296.59	-1.4	15	18.0	10	2.02	296.59	18.0

COMPOSITE INDICES		
Europe	227.46	-0.3
Pacific Basin	151.45	-1.8
Europe/Pacific	183.02	-1.0
World	219.97	-1.3

Source: Goldman, Sachs & Co. Exchange rates as of Friday's London close. © 1996 The Financial Times Ltd., Goldman, Sachs & Co. and Standard & Poor's.

CURRENCIES

Exchange rate	Friday	Last Friday	Week % Chg.	Year Ago
Japanese yen to the U.S. dollar	113.95	112.89	+0.93	102.04
German marks to the U.S. dollar	1.5588	1.5463	+0.81	1.4430
Canadian dollars to the U.S. dollar	1.3827	1.3600	+0.19	1.3722
U.S. dollars to the British pound	1.6554	1.6466	+0.53	1.5373

Source: Bloomberg Financial Markets. Exchange rates as of Friday's New York close.

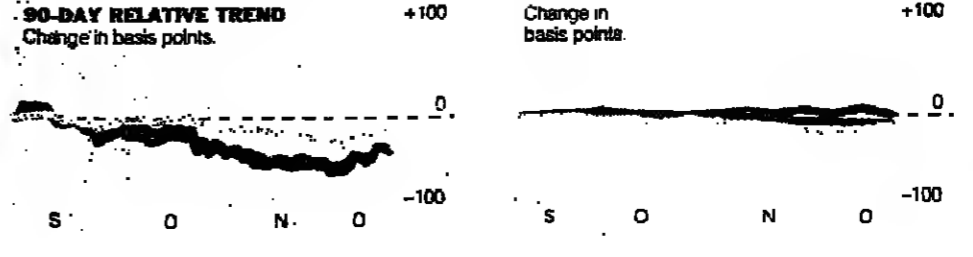
Dec. 9-13: Stock and Bond Markets Continue to Slide as Investors Have Year-End Worries

Sources: Bank Rate Monitor, Bloomberg Financial Markets, The Bond Buyer, DataStream, Goldman, Sachs, IBC's Money Fund Report, Merrill Lynch, Standard & Poor's, Ryan Labs

PRICES		DOMESTIC BONDS		AROUND THE WORLD	
Broad market	Down 1.48%	Treasuries	Down 0.22%	European stocks	Down 0.27%
S & P 500 index	728.64	Ryan Labs. Total Return	195.23	F.T. Actuaries Europe	227.46
Blue chips	Down 1.21%	Municipals	Down 0.27%	Asian stocks	Down 1.82%
Dow 30 industrials	6,304.87	Bond Buyer index	117.13	F.T. Actuaries Pacific Basin	151.45
Small capitalization	Down 0.37%	Corporates	Down 0.19%	Gold	Down 0.14%
Russell 2000 index	354.19	Merrill Lynch Master index	848.78	New York cash price	\$368.60



YIELDS		OTHER INVESTMENTS	
Long bonds	6.57%	Money market funds	4.82%
30-year Treasuries	Up 6 basis pts.	Taxable average	Down 6 basis pts.
Notes	5.73%	Bank C.D.'s	5.03%
2-year Treasuries	Up 4 basis pts.	1-year small savers	Unchanged
Municipals	5.73%	Stocks	2.05%
Bond Buyer index	Up 1 basis pt.	S. & P. 500 dividend yield	Up 4 b.p.



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The TV Rating Wars

This year Congress warned the television industry to devise a voluntary rating system for shows, enabling parents to block them out, or risk having a system imposed from Washington. What started as a cooperative effort among the networks, parents' groups and others has collapsed into name-calling, however. The reason is that the ratings put forward by the industry are too vague to be of much help to television viewers. The industry needs to listen to the complaints and see if it can come up with something better.

The ratings that have drawn fire were produced by an advisory group headed by Jack Valenti, president of the Motion Picture Association of America. Mr. Valenti helped oversee the largely successful voluntary ratings system for movie theaters, but this time he has produced a system that is too simple for the more complicated menu of television programming. Mr. Valenti proposes four ratings: TV-G (for general audiences), TV-PG (parental guidance suggested), TV-14 (parents strongly cautioned) and TV-M (mature audiences only). But viewers are right to demand more explicit information about the amounts of nudity, sex, violence and profanity each program contains.

Many parents' groups have embraced the 10 categories adopted by Home Box Office, which describe adult content in more detail. Mr. Valenti argues, speciously, that with more complex ratings, countless permutations and combinations would arise, creating confusion for the viewer. He and his industry colleagues are exaggerating the hardship that would be imposed on networks by providing information beyond that contained in the four broad categories they have proposed.

The networks could easily devise a ratings system that is more descriptive than Mr. Valenti's and more streamlined than HBO's, and everyone knows it. What the television industry really fears is

a ratings system that is so explicit about content that it drives away advertisers and turns off viewers. Television viewers know that the networks love a little ambiguity in their promotion. But most viewers have become accustomed to labeling in what they buy and are demanding to know what they are getting when they decide to let their children watch television. To ignore that political reality is to invite the kind of overly restrictive legislation that Congress will be only too happy to deliver.

The concept of the V-chip, or electronic device blocking out shows with certain codes, won broad endorsement in the Presidential campaign this year, and new television sets will be required to contain the device in 1998. When put into practice, it will not be without problems. The television networks are not wrong, for example, to worry about what might happen if the system gets too elaborate, and groups start demanding labels for controversial political subjects like abortion. But the industry can certainly be more accommodating — and politically smarter — than it was last week, with Mr. Valenti insisting that anything other than the system he has proposed would be challenged in court. Mr. Valenti has been around Washington long enough to know that such stubbornness is an invitation to would-be censors.

There is ample time to discuss a system that preserves sophisticated programming for adults and enables parents to manage their children's viewing. The Telecommunications Act passed by Congress last February says that if the industry has not devised voluntary guidelines, the Federal Communications Commission is authorized to appoint its own commission to come up with one. As President Clinton said Friday, it is far more desirable for the industry to devise the ratings system than to have one be overseen by the Government.

A Victory for Wetlands

Over the last decade, the fight to save the nation's diminishing wetlands has focused on the bigger and more obvious threats. Former Vice President Dan Quayle and, later, Representative Bud Shuster of Pennsylvania advanced various schemes that would have transferred millions of these valuable acres to developers and industry almost overnight. Their efforts failed. But all the while, under 10-year-old regulations, the Army Corps of Engineers has been transferring land to private interests in small enough chunks to escape radar detection by most environmentalists and conservation-minded politicians. This has contributed mightily to the steady erosion of the wetland inventory, which is declining at a rate of some 70,000 acres a year.

Now, thanks to legal threats from environmentalists and complaints from the White House and other Federal agencies, the corps has agreed to institute new and stricter procedures. This is the best news for the country's wetlands since the Senate refused to consider Mr. Shuster's destructive efforts to rewrite the Clean Water Act and, in the process, narrow vital wetland protections.

This is also a positive sign for the country's ecological health generally. The swamps, marshes and fens that make up the 100 million or so remaining acres of wetlands help filter pollutants, prevent floods, protect animal species and nourish tiny organisms essential to the food chain.

The culprit here has been a regulation known as Nationwide Permit 26. Normally, anyone who intends to disturb a wetland must obtain a permit from the corps, which oversees dredging and filling activities in waterways. But Permit 26, designed to

simplify the corps' time-consuming permitting process, allows owners to bypass the usual review and obtain virtually instant approval for draining from 1 to 10 acres of wetlands.

Under the new rules, quick permitting under Permit 26 will apply only to parcels of three acres or less, beginning in January. After two years, the corps plans to scrap Permit 26 altogether and substitute new regulations. A faster timetable would be surely be preferable, but developers will feel the pinch of these new rules. Most of their money is made (and most of the environmental damage occurs) on parcels larger than three acres.

As a practical matter, the corps cannot exhaustively review every permit application. It therefore argues that it will still need some sort of system providing blanket approval to small projects. But the corps should not be left alone to devise the new system. Input is needed from the environmental community and agencies like the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Environmental Protection Agency. The aim here is to devise a system that combines maximum protection with rigorous enforcement.

For the moment, however, conservationists in and out of government can be pleased that the corps has begun to take their complaints seriously and that an incremental but insidious threat to what is left of the country's wetlands will soon begin to fade. Congress could conceivably overturn these new rules. But it would be unwise to try. Historically, the Corps of Engineers has not been famous for environmental stewardship. Its decision to change its ways is further evidence that those who believe in sound conservation practices have gained the upper hand in Washington.

The Ghost of Christmas Depression

Next weekend's televised showing of "It's a Wonderful Life" marks the movie's 50th anniversary, and a revival of the debate over what makes the film so well-loved. Like "A Christmas Carol," it is the story about having a bad (but instructive) holiday dream, courtesy of otherworldly spirits. Jimmy Stewart plays a suicidal George Bailey, who is shown what his hometown of Bedford Falls would be like if he had never been born. Needless to say, even though George is just the owner of an about-to-be-bankrupt savings and loan, his life turns out to have been critical to the happiness of hundreds of other people.

The movie's payoff comes when the entire town arrives to bail George out of his financial crisis, and his war-hero brother skips a Medal of Honor ceremony at the White House to rush home and announce that George is the real Bailey hero. Fans who have seen the movie 10 or 20 times usually cite this affirmation-of-life finale, the tribute to every person's unique importance.

But good Christmas movies carry dual messages. On one level they speak to the eternal human spirit. On another they address the inevitable holiday anxiety attack. The many films made of "A Christmas Carol" are about the need to keep charity in our hearts year round. But they also hold out a promise that if you maintain a reasonably cheerful demeanor, you will still be invited out when you get old. (Charles Dickens, who was both sentimental and hard-headed, clearly felt that one key to being a beloved senior citizen at Christmastime was bringing a lot of presents.)

Watching George's progress in "It's a Wonderful Life" assures us that the spouse or parent who behaves like a depressive Grinch in the afternoon, criticizing the housekeeping and yelling at little Zuzu, will probably get over his seasonal doldrums by tree-trimming time. The dreaded visit from a super-successful sibling might turn out better than you think. Everyone knows you're the real family hero.

Lesser movies carry their message of comfort, too. "Holiday Inn" teaches that there is no point worrying about things going wrong at your Christmas party, like lack of snow or bank foreclosure. Things will work out, the guests will come, and Bing Crosby will perform in several lavish production numbers. "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" is perhaps a subtle commentary on what to do if the car doesn't start on Christmas Eve.

"It's a Wonderful Life," however, also has a unique appeal to our age. In the 1970's, the studio's copyright was accidentally allowed to lapse, and almost every television station in America used the movie as free holiday programming. It was shown so often that it became ingrained in the collective consciousness of several generations of television watchers. Millions of people know the references: signature song ("Buffalo Gal"), actress who played Mary Bailey (Donna Reed) and what happens when an angel wins his wings (a bell rings). The director, Frank Capra, would not want to know this, but "It's a Wonderful Life" has the same nostalgic pop-culture pull as "The Brady Bunch."

Do Computers Retard Productivity's Growth?

To the Editor:
Your Dec. 8 Week in Review article "What Has the Computer Done for Us Lately?" explores why personal computers haven't sparked an expected productivity boom. It neglects one obvious answer, however: the expectation is itself unrealistic.

The computer industry has conditioned us to very rapid technological change. That in itself may be one reason for slow productivity growth; business can't make much headway when it has to change products and procedures every few months. We should not forget, however, that individuals and organizations take to change much more slowly. It is only in the last five years or so that inexpensive personal computers have become powerful enough to really affect productivity.

That simply isn't a long enough time for businesses to figure out how to use those computers effectively, for software engineers to develop applications, or for workers to learn how to operate them. If really large enterprises like the L.R.S. and the air

traffic control system have been unable to implement this new technology, how can we expect small and medium-sized businesses to be up and running already?

To measure the impact of personal computers on productivity, you have to look at how and where they are used today. So far, a majority of businesses use them strictly for word processing. And, as anybody who has ever done any typing for a living can attest, the productivity gains in that field have been significant indeed. SHELDON LEEMON
Huntington Wood, Mich., Dec. 9, 1996

service exports to foreign countries. These exports have clearly offset losses from manufacturing moved overseas in the last 30 years. If you looked at the benefits this brings to the nation, you would agree that computers have improved the productivity in ways measured differently than pure output, such as shortened product development cycles. DAVE HENDRICKS
New York, Dec. 10, 1996

Computer as Controller

To the Editor:
"What Has the Computer Done for Us Lately?" (Week in Review, Dec. 8) misses a couple of important points. First of all, the 1950's and 60's were the golden age of United States productivity mainly because the potential competition was still suffering the aftereffects of World War II. Germany and Japan were flattened and our allies debilitated; only we had the ability to take advantage of the knowledge explosion that followed the war.

Second, computers have had profound effects on productivity as machine controllers. For instance, the modern automobile has better performance, better safety and about twice the gas mileage of the cars of 30 years ago. This stems in part from the use of the computer in the design process and in part from its incorporation into vehicular systems as a controller. Imagine if all cars still got 12 miles per gallon and exposed us to the injury rates of 30 years ago; how much more would workers have to be paid for the same work if their transportation costs reflected this?

As management aids, computers have been a disappointment, as your article reports. However, this has almost nothing to do with computers per se; it's just that if a computer lets you replace 10 clerks, and you're the one in charge of those clerks, and your status in the company rests on how many clerks you have, then suddenly you discover a need for more input. So much more, in fact, that 10 clerks pounding computers can barely handle it. The practical effect of computers-in-management has been to increase the workload for everyone at all levels below the level where the computers are installed. JOHN K. LUNDE
Orono, Me., Dec. 8, 1996

A Service Economy

To the Editor:
In the Dec. 8 Week in Review article "What Has the Computer Done for Us Lately?" you overlook the fact that the reason the United States is not meeting the national wealth growth rates of the 1950's and 60's is that our economy has become largely a service sector one, in which industrial production is not occurring to the same extent as in previous decades.

No amount of computer use can create substantive production if the economic foundation is increasingly one producing no substance of tangible wealth. But the computer revolution is real. Its "contribution," however, will not be in the form of economic enhancement as much as in the way we interact with each other and the world, for better and for worse. RONALD FERREL
Somerville, N.J., Dec. 8, 1996

Unitarians' Spirituality

To the Editor:
The Dec. 8 news article "Unitarians Striking Chord of Spirituality" describes the movement, by some Unitarians, away from humanism in search of spirituality.

We are aware of the cultural shift in which many people are seeking "spirituality." This does not, however, need to result in rejecting a humanist perspective. Religious humanism leads one to celebrate the sacred in everyday life while still being deeply committed to reason, experience and human worth. A deepening reflective practice and a desire for meaningful ceremonies that celebrate the significance of life passages and communal events are elements in this process of honoring the human journey. DON JOHNSON
ARTHUR DOBRIN
New York, Dec. 10, 1996

The writers are, respectively, senior leader, N.Y. Society for Ethical Culture, and leader, Ethical Humanist Society of L.I.

For the Love of Money

To the Editor:
Russell Baker says in "Sweet Is the Lure" (column, Dec. 10) that no matter whether church, school, business, sports — "everything is about money." But when he refers to money as the root of all evil, he is making a common misquotation of the Christian Scripture, which says that "the love of money is the root of all evil" (1 Timothy, 6:10).

It is our understanding that every season is a time for connecting with the Holy beyond us and those we need among us. Money is only one way to do that, but it is an important way. As we pass the plate, we invite all to remember those who are less fortunate, even as we are grateful for columnists who help us see in new ways, or who help us remind each other of the true meaning of some of the old ways. STEPHANIE WEINER
Senior Minister
Union Congregational Church
Montclair, N.J., Dec. 10, 1996

We Can Still Love Evita for Her Hipness

To the Editor:
Frank Rich is concerned (column, Dec. 11) that in awaiting the opening of Madonna's new movie, "Evita," and in purchasing the "Evita" line of clothing, people are embracing, or at least ignoring, Eva Peron's politics. I think he is overreacting a bit here.

After all, moviegoers have always appreciated the story of a woman working her way up from dire circumstances while snubbing the wealthy in the back (witness the endearing popularity of Scarlett O'Hara in "Gone With the Wind").

As for the traffic at the Evita boutique at Bloomingdale's, I suspect it has more to do with the fact that these styles look good on women who actually have hips, a sight so rare in modern fashion that many of us will be willing to go to Madonna's



Kim Robertson
movie, good or bad, as an act of gratitude. BARBARA D. PAXTON
New York, Dec. 11, 1996

Serbian Student Movement Isn't Violent

To the Editor:
We are appalled by your Dec. 10 front-page article on the alleged nationalist character of the student protest in Belgrade, Serbia. As can easily be seen from the quotations of some protesters, there are varying political convictions among the students. On the other hand, in the three weeks of protest not a single extremist act has occurred.

Furthermore, contrary to your implications, there were hardly any noteworthy expressions of anti-American or anti-Western attitudes among the students. Your reference to a racist orientation of the Belgrade students or domination of racist content in academic lectures is equally untrue.

The decision to refuse all journalists permission to enter the philosophy faculty building was not made by the students, but by the heads of the faculty. Moreover, the protest rallies have never opened with the old Serbian anthem "God Give Us Justice," but with the old academic anthem "Gaudeamus Ignitur."

We find it to be sadly detrimental to the role of the press in a democratic society that the American public was thus misinformed about the character of this clearly democratic student protest in Belgrade and Serbia. This sort of writing paradoxically places you on the same political side as the undemocratic media and the Government in Belgrade. Finally, let us add that this student protest is now supported by more than 1,500 professors at Belgrade University. MLADEN LAZIC
Belgrade, Serbia, Dec. 13, 1996
The writer, a sociologist, signed this letter along with four other professors at Belgrade University.

War Crimes in the Former Yugoslavia, I documented countless reports of individuals who had been killed and brutalized by paramilitary soldiers who called themselves Chetniks. They sang nationalist Serbian songs while they beat their victims with spiked clubs, singed their bodies, castrated and raped them.

If the Serbian students seek inspiration for their protest from the Chetniks, then theirs is not a movement of hope but rather one of hatred, just like the one launched in 1992 by the very man they seek to topple. Democratic governments should be wary of supporting anything more than the students' right to protest. PENNY M. VENETIS
Rutgers University School of Law
Newark, Dec. 10, 1996

Why Is Protest So Late?

To the Editor:
It is heartening to see mass Serbian opposition to the totalitarian Slobodan Milosevic, finally (news article, Dec. 10). It didn't happen when Vukovar was annihilated, Sarajevo shelled, Omarska exposed or Srebrenica sacked, but it's happening now.

Maybe the war-crimes tribunal in The Hague will now find the political courage to indict Mr. Milosevic for his international crimes, beginning with the genocide in Croatia in 1991.

At the same time, Muslim and Croatian survivors of the Serbian genocide in Bosnia are disheartened to see individuals like Vuk Draskovic trumpeted uncritically as head of a Serbian democratic opposition. He is a longtime supporter of World War II Serbian fascists and the recent founder and head of the Serbian Guard, a fascist militia group reported to have committed atrocities in Croatia and Bosnia.

In the 1980's, Mr. Draskovic was a best-selling author of anti-Muslim hate propaganda that helped set the stage for the current genocide. He is for a Greater Serbia. A "democratic opposition" figure who denies human rights calls for closer scrutiny.

Today Serbian protesters wave the Serbian fascist three-finger salute. Perhaps the Hague tribunal will expose its meaning, as the Nuremberg trials did for the "Heil Hitler" salute. CATHERINE A. MACKINNON
Ann Arbor, Mich., Dec. 11, 1996
The writer, a University of Michigan law professor, is lead counsel in a suit against Radovan Karadzic.

The 'Chetnik' Record

To the Editor:
As a civil rights and human rights lawyer who teaches law students on a full-time basis, I applauded the Serbian students' protest against Slobodan Milosevic for his illegal nullification of democratically held Serbian elections. Reading about the protest movement gave me hope that the younger generation would lift Serbia from its repressive state. My hopes were deflated not only by your Dec. 10 article "Student Foes of Belgrade Leader Embrace Fierce Serb Nationalism," but also by the seemingly benign photograph that accompanied the article.

One of the pictured student leaders wears a baseball cap with the logo "Chetniks." The term originated as a derogatory name for the Serbian military in World War II. It was resurrected as an accolade of pride by Bosnian Serb paramilitary groups in their campaign to cleanse Bosnia of Muslims and Croats.

In 1994, while on the legal staff of the United Nations Commission of Experts Established to Investigate

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Micro.
Macro
And Way
Beyond

A

Micro, Macro And Way Beyond

By David Hackett Fischer

AWAYLAND, Mass. recent article in The Washington Post reported that more and more experts believe that "the U.S. economy, after a quarter-century of painful ups and downs, appears to have entered a new period of stability in which recessions no longer seem inevitable." The experts' conclusion, the article said, is that the business cycle, if not extinct, "is a candidate for the endangered species list."

Those statements bring to mind an immortal prophecy by Irving Fisher, a leading economist in the early 20th century, that stock prices had reached "a permanently high plateau." This remark was made nine days before the Great Crash of 1929. Strong assertions that we are emancipated from business cycles tend to be cyclical indicators in their own right. They come after a long boom, and sometimes, but not always, before a big bust.

The "painful ups and downs" of economic history are still very much with us, as the drops on Wall Street and the roiling of markets around the world last week reminded us.

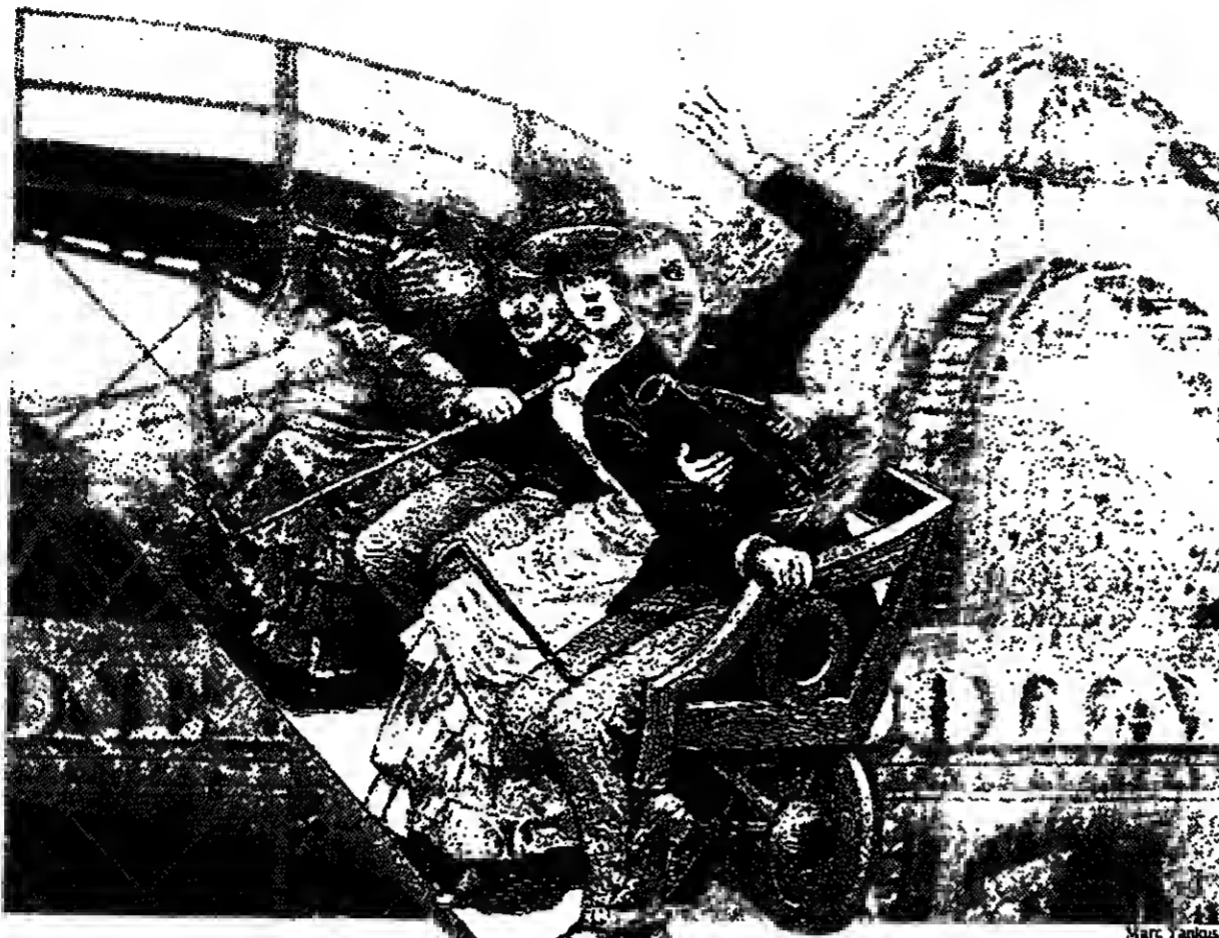
These economic fluctuations continue to occur not only in the form of short business cycles but also as very long historical movements.

Students of long-term change have compiled data spanning many centuries of economic history. The leading example of these studies is a remarkable index of "consumable prices" in southern England over the last 800 years, constructed by two British scholars, Sir Henry Phelps-Brown and Sheila Hopkins. They discovered that the market prices of food, drink, fuel and textiles have been rising since the 12th century, at an average rate of about 1 percent each year.

But this study, and others like it, also found that inflation has not been constant. Nearly all of the increases in the past eight centuries have occurred in four distinct periods of rising prices, which historians call price revolutions.

These movements were not fixed cycles but irregular waves, no more (or less) predictable than individual waves in the sea.

The first wave, the medieval price revolution, began as early as the late 12th century and continued to the mid-14th century. Next was the price revolution of the 16th century, which actually started about 1475 and continued to the middle of the 17th century. A third wave, the price revolution



The next stage brought growing instability. Prices surged and declined in movements of increasing volatility. Food and fuel always led the advance; manufactured goods lagged behind.

Commodity markets suffered severe price shocks. Financial markets became highly volatile. The amount of money in circulation was alternately expanded and contracted. Government spending outgrew revenue. Public and private debt soared. Even the strongest nation-states suffered severely from fiscal stress: The Government of Spain went bankrupt at least six times between 1557 and 1647; France struggled under a mountain of debt in the late 18th century, just as the United States has in the last decade.

Real wages began to fall, but returns on capital investment increased. The rich grew richer, those in the middle lost ground, and the poor suffered terribly. Inequality of wealth increased, as did hunger, homelessness, crime, violence and illegitimacy.

These economic events had cultural consequences. In literature and the arts, this stage of every price revolution was an era of dark visions and restless dreams. The late 16th and early 17th centuries, for example, saw the demonic fantasies of Pieter Brueghel, the spiritual suffering of El Greco and the harsh realism of Georges de la Tour. Intellectuals raged against their own societies. Young people gave way to alienation, anomie and cultural despair.

Finally, each great wave crested and broke with shattering force. The

After many years of equilibrium and comparative peace, a new trend appeared. Populations started to grow more rapidly. Demand for goods and services increased. And another great wave began.

The causes of great waves were highly complex. In large part they were driven by increased demand

Are we coming to the end of the fourth great economic cycle?

for products and services, caused by rising populations and other factors. Monetary factors also had a large effect, especially in middle and later stages. Environmental stresses such as poor farming conditions also had a major impact, especially in periods of general crisis.

These waves are very clear in the historical record. But they do not tell us what will happen next. This is because of the nature of history itself. Each wave rises from a sequence of individual choices. As long as this is so, history will never be a predictive science.

But we can form a rough sense of our historical context. Today, we appear to be somewhere in the late stages of a price revolution that began 100 years ago, as a result of growing world population relative to the supply of land and resources. After a long period of volatility during two world wars and the Great Depression, this long inflation became increasingly apparent during the 1980's. People's responses caused growing imbalances and instability. The results included the price shocks, stagflations, falling real wages and rising inequality of the 1970's and 1980's.

Today, rates of population growth are dropping throughout the world. Inflation has declined worldwide, but it still continues at rates of 1 to 4 percent in Western Europe and North America, 7 to 10 percent in China and India, and 20 to 30 percent in many countries.

The great wave of our time still goes on. It could continue for many years, or, as some evidence suggests, it may be approaching its end. Many parts of the world are now in crises that are very similar to the climaxes of earlier great waves. The great wave of the 20th century has already helped to bring down Socialist regimes in Eastern Europe, tyrannies in Latin America and secular governments in Islam. Many African countries are in the grip of suffering as severe as that of the 14th century.

If this turns out to be a pivotal moment in economic history, how we end this great wave depends on the choices that we make.

The first step is to try to understand these dangerous movements through careful and honest research. The world is drowning in statistical data, but not the data that we most urgently need to understand our condition. Every week we study the latest price flutters as if they were soothsayers' bones. But the contextual knowledge that we require to make sense of this information is left mainly to an academic cottage industry.

The Federal Government's excellent Bureau of Labor Statistics receives much criticism and little support. It would be an ideal body to study historical trends. The Boskin Commission, which criticized the bureau's method of measuring inflation, was right to call

Foreign Affairs

THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN

What the Goose Eats

HONG KONG Lu Ping, the Chinese official managing Beijing's takeover of Hong Kong, was explaining a while ago why press freedom in Hong Kong would have to be regulated after the city reverts to China on July 1. To make his point, Mr. Lu opted for an analogy. He said in all seriousness that if a journalist in America were to call for a different form of government or for the independence of Hawaii, "Will it be allowed? I don't think so." Therefore, he added, it's hardly unusual that journalists in Hong Kong would be barred from calling for the independence of Hong Kong or for a new government in Beijing.

Mr. Lu's statement tells you everything you need to know — and to worry about — regarding China's assumption of control over Hong Kong, the first time in history that a part of the free world is being absorbed by a Communist state. I believe China has no desire to intentionally harm Hong Kong's unique, freewheeling character. Hong Kong is a goose that lays golden eggs. But while China's intentions may be benign, its capabilities are another matter. As one senior Hong Kong official remarked to me, "I'm not sure they really understand what the goose eats."

China's incentives for preserving Hong Kong's special character are many: If China absorbs Hong Kong successfully, without undermining it, Beijing will at least be able to say to the people of Taiwan, "Look, you too can come back to the motherland without losing your special status." But if China fails in Hong Kong, Beijing can kiss goodbye forever the notion of a peaceful unification with Taiwan. China has an obvious economic incentive in keeping Hong Kong a magnet for investment in China, and Beijing also has a deep desire to prove it can rule Hong Kong better than the British imperialists, who seized Hong Kong from China 150 years ago in the Opium War.

But there's the rub. Hong Kong is not just another Chinese city, once lost and now being reabsorbed by the motherland. Hong Kong today is the epitome of a postindustrial city. It is now much more of a global village than a Chinese village. More than 80 percent of its people work in services directed to the global economy. It has moved far beyond the days when it made plastic flowers and cheap radios. It is now a beehive of knowledge-based industries serving Asia. It is an energetic city that thrives by being

fast, not by being big, and its particular skill is putting together faster than anyone else those deals where the money is raised in Wall Street, the legal framework, design and marketing are done in Hong Kong, and the backroom manufacturing is done somewhere else in Asia. But a knowledge-based city depends on the free flow of information and ideas and on transparent transactions. That's what this goose eats. No info, no eggs.

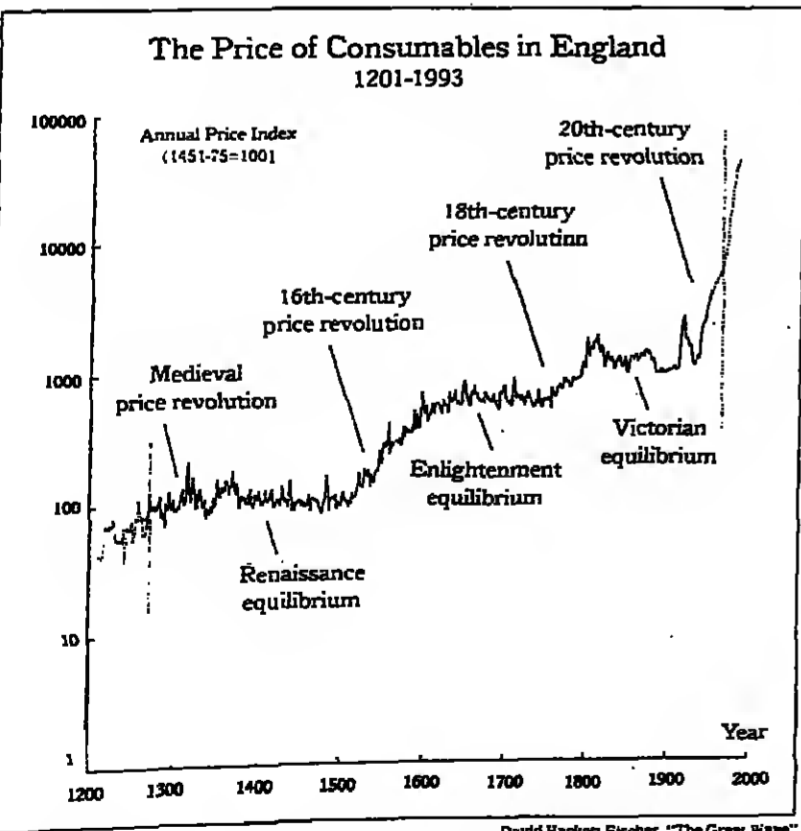
In other words, Hong Kong's return to China is not just a slice of the West being given back to the East, it is a slice of the future being given back to

Will China force-feed Hong Kong?

the past. And whatever their intentions, the capabilities of China's leaders to understand the importance of free information for a city like Hong Kong, and their capabilities to manage that information flow without debasing it with whispers, raised eyebrows or pressures for self-censorship, are still very limited. (See Lu Ping.) As one diplomat here remarked to me of China's aging leaders: "These guys did not have lemonade stands when they were little" — they put no value on the free flow of information, they truly believe that you can separate free economic speech from free political speech.

"Hong Kong is a bridge culture, China is a fortress culture," remarked Michael DeGolyer, who is monitoring the transition at Hong Kong Baptist University. "Bridge cultures live off tolls — they make a little bit of money on each transaction. The more openness, the more traffic, the more interactions, the more flows of information, the better Hong Kong does. But China's image is the Great Wall. China interacted with the world for years by selectively opening doors to the outside and then letting visitors into very small, confined rooms."

So, what worries me about Hong Kong's future is not what China knows about Hong Kong, but what it doesn't know. What worries me is not whether China will do big things to change Hong Kong, but whether it will understand that even doing little things will ultimately spoil this unique city's unique character. □

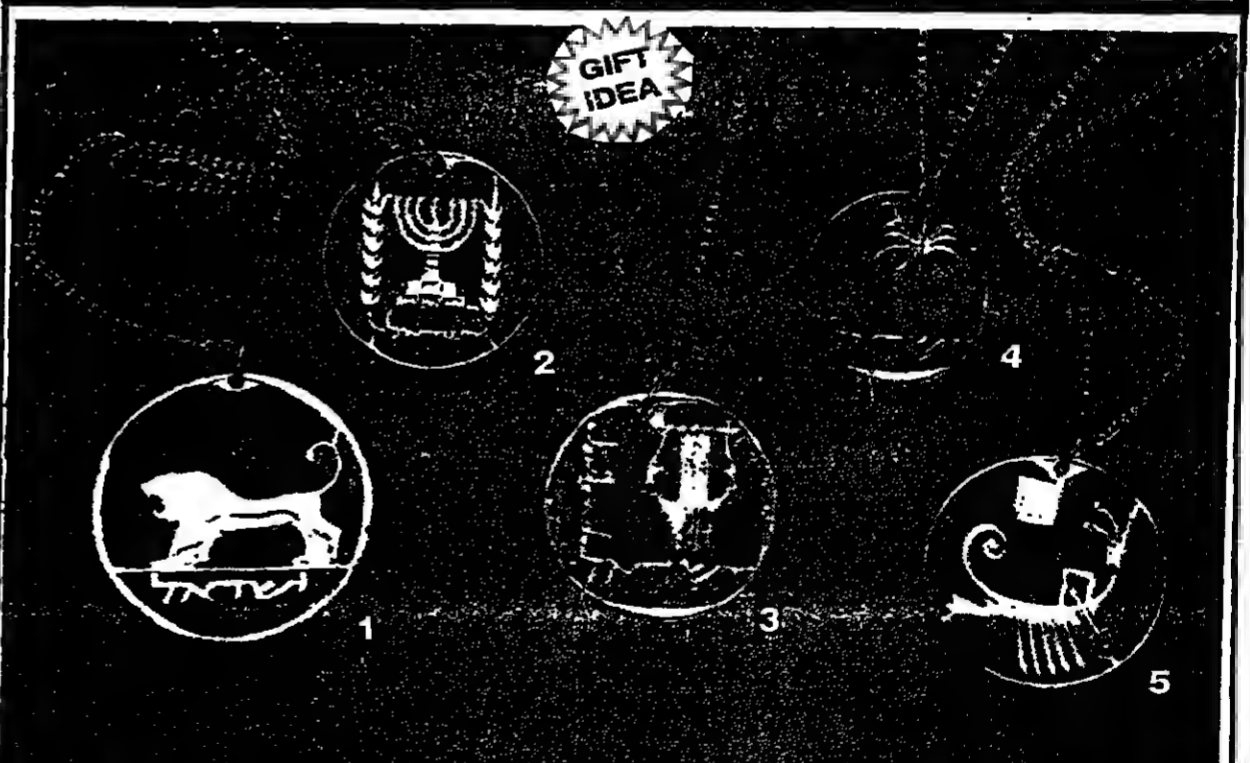


of the 18th century, began in 1729 and reached its climax around 1812-15. The fourth wave commenced in 1896 and has continued to our own time. Mark Twain observed that history does not repeat itself, but it rhymes. So it did in these great movements. Some lasted as long as 175 years, others were as short as 85 years. Each wave was a unique historical event, but all had the same structure. They began silently in periods of high prosperity; at first scarcely anyone recognized them as long-term trends.

After several decades, a new stage began. Prices rose beyond the range of previous fluctuations. As people became aware of the new wave, they responded by raising rents, increasing interest rates and hoarding commodities. These individual choices drove the general price level higher.

David Hackett Fischer, professor of history at Brandeis University, is the author of "The Great Wave: Price Revolutions and the Rhythm of History."

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Corruption on the march in Germany

It may begin with a glass of beer. Soon, it may grow into lunch for family and kids. Or an all-expenses-paid visit to the local brothel. Or free decoration on the mother-in-law's coffin.

Experts say corruption is on the march in Germany and warn that so far there seems to be little political will to fight it.

"From A to Z, every office is bribed. No company, no office, no level seems to be immune to corruption," according to Peter Walter, a council representative in Offenbach, near Frankfurt, and a former long-time police officer.

Walter was among a group of experts who attended a recent two-day conference on corruption, organized by the union of German crime fighters.

"Corruption is worse than homicide," said Elke Bleibtreu, chairman of the union, a trade organization that groups police officers, prosecutors and other law-enforcement officials. "It kills the entire society."

The conclusion of the experts: a growing number of German public servants are accepting bribes. The estimated annual damage: 5 billion to 20 billion marks (\$3.2 billion to \$13.1 billion), according to Bleibtreu.

Construction permits, residence permits for foreigners, driving licenses, vehicle registration - all can be bought for a bribe, Bleibtreu said.

"There is corruption among police too," he added. Criminals have been tipped off about impending police raids, he alleged.

Bleibtreu said the Germany of the future might become a land where "nothing is achieved without bakshesh."

Germany is not about to become a banana republic just yet. In fact, Germany comes out looking pretty good in a survey of least and most corrupt nations issued in June by Transparency International, a Berlin-based multinational organization whose goal is to curb corruption in international business.

A country judged to be corruption-free would be given 10 points and New Zealand came closest with 9.43. At the bottom of the scale was Nigeria with 0.69 points.

Germany was ranked 13th with 8.27, while the US scored 7.66, making it the 15th least-corrupt nation in the views of business executives.

Wolfgang Schaupensteiner, chief Frankfurt prosecutor and a leading anti-corruption crusader, says one difficulty authorities have is obvious: corruption is hard to detect.

But that was only part of the problem.

"We can get a judge to order the hugging of the telephone of a bicycle thief, but not of a corrupt politician. When we discover political corruption, we are not allowed to investigate further," Schaupensteiner said.

"Political corruption is historically not punishable here," he said.

"Some of them who are more honorable may resign but we can't prosecute them," Bleibtreu said.

Schaupensteiner picked one example to show how widespread corruption was.

A recent government auditor's report in the state of Hesse found cases of corruption in every community that was checked. "Do you think you have such cases only in Hesse?" one of Germany's 16 states, he asked rhetorically.

Comprehensive anti-corruption laws have been on the table for a long time but the government has not pushed them through.

In fact, until this year German law allowed companies to deduct from their taxes any bribes they paid to do business abroad.

One of Schaupensteiner's suggestions is to punish those who offer bribes, including bribes masked as donations to one or another political party.

Two foreign experts also attended the session - Leoluca Orlando, the mayor of Palermo in Sicily, and Grigory Omelchenko, chairman of the anti-corruption and organized crime commission of the Ukrainian legislature.

The Germans are eager to adopt the Italian experiences in luring Mafia bosses into becoming witnesses for the state, what Schaupensteiner and other experts consider a key strategy in fighting organized crime.

Omelchenko, who said corruption reached the highest levels in Ukraine, warned about the role newly rich Ukrainian and Russian "businessmen" could have in spreading corruption in the West.

He said that an estimated \$3 billion, often earned in shady or illegal deals, were kept in Germany by such businessmen. "Sooner or later, some of that money will be used for bribing Germans." (AP)

When Boutros Boutros-Ghali's term at the UN ends, the press will lose the lively Jewish spokeswoman brought in to brighten up the UN's image. Naomi Farrell reports

AS of last January 1, some 200 journalists of the international press corps of the United Nations have been treated to a breath of fresh air in the person of Sylvana Foa, the outrageous and charmingly blunt spokeswoman of the secretary-general.

Now, they are very depressed that Boutros Boutros-Ghali has not been reelected, and consequently, they will not be able to enjoy her enlightening and sparkling renditions of what the UN has to add to history each day.

Some of the journalists who were not too enthusiastic about the present secretary-general said, before Friday's appointment of UN undersecretary Kofi Annan of Ghana to secretary-general, that they "wouldn't mind putting up with [Boutros Ghali] for another term, if only Sylvana could stay."

One could never doze in boredom at her daily briefings, even if she has hardly anything to report - which does happen once in a while - she would quip: "Good news day - no news, the world is OK, because all the news is terrible." With her brilliant sense of humor, she has the talent of making the most mundane news colorful and interesting, and prides herself in being able to translate the "gobbledygook," "UNese," and "inter alia" situations to real everyday life. She even humanizes statistics.

"Sylvana," as she is fondly known by her many admirers on the Secretariat building's third-floor press section, was borrowed from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Geneva, where she had been spokeswoman since 1991, and where, incidentally, she aroused the chagrin of so many people with her direct outspoken approach that she was noticed by Boutros-Ghali, who was in the market for a new image for the unpopular UN.

This bow this delightful 51-year-old, wisecracking, chain-smoking, native of Troy, New York, got here.

A graduate of Columbia University's Barnard College and



Boutros Boutros-Ghali's departure means the world will have to get by without spokeswoman Sylvana Foa. (United Nations)

a Special Carnegie Fellow at the Graduate School of Journalism, her journalistic career has brought her to many exotic corners of the globe such as Bangkok, Saigon, Hong Kong, and New Delhi. She worked for a variety of publications and wire services, such as *Newsweek* and *United Press International* (UPI).

She seems to have left her mark wherever she went. She was evicted from Cambodia after writing that American bombing raids were being directed from the United States Embassy - based on pilot-to-controller conversations that she picked up on a \$15 radio, as described in a *New York Times* article by Barbara Crossette. Foa has no qualms about criticizing her own government, "because it's inside the family. If I were an Iranian or Libyan bureaucrat, I would be accused of being anti-American."

"It's the same with being Jewish," she says. "I don't always approve of what's going on in Israel, but if someone who was not Jewish had the same opinion, I'd think they were antisemitic, and want to knock their teeth out."

FOA HAILS from a very prominent Italian-Jewish family of which a chapter in Alessandro Stille's book *Benevolence and Betrayal* is about the "Foa's of Turin." Her great-grandfather, Giuseppe Foa, was the chief rabbi of Turin. Her uncle, Vittorio Foa, who is still living in Italy, was a senator and famous anti-Fascist Labor Union leader. Her father,

Joseph Foa, a well-respected aeronautics engineer involved in designing jet planes, was imprisoned by the Fascists, later escaped to America, via Switzerland and Holland, got married and had four daughters - the second of whom was Sylvana.

She has been carrying on the family tradition of bringing attention to the Foa name throughout her career. She was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize in 1984, for a 4,000-word interview with Indira Gandhi conducted just before her death, and rushed to print on the day of her assassination. The following year, Foa was nominated for both a Pulitzer Prize and an Overseas Press Club award for her Vietnam 10th Anniversary Package, including the first interview with Le Duc Tho.

Also, from a base in Rome, she covered the rampant terrorism

that then plagued Italy, and traveled widely in the Middle East and Africa as a troubleshooter. Earlier she covered the fall of the shah in Teheran.

When asked what attracted her to an international career, she answered thoughtfully: "My late father became a refugee when he escaped from a Fascist prison in Italy. If he were not given asylum by the United States he would have been killed. That's why I have a strong feeling in my heart for the plight of refugees and the complex circumstances leading to this tragic situation. The UN is here not just to launch peacekeeping operations but to address and resolve global issues which create refugees, such as overpopulation, poverty, famine, desertification, disease, persecution, torture."

FOA IS a passionate advocate of the UN, and feels it plays a vital role in the world which is not really publicized. Her dilemma as the person in charge of the UN's image is "that the UN is in the forefront of most things that are happening in the world, and this is something that we are not very good at getting out because so much of what we do is behind the scenes, quiet diplomacy. Therefore, it's very easy for us to get passed over. We're not allowed to really pound our chests and say 'we did it, we did it!' It's better if countries take credit for it, and they feel better about it. It's a hard line not to stray from. The need to keep the UN in the news and let people know that the UN is something worth having and is

important, and the line that says you can't tell people what you're doing because you'll be breaking confidences.

"It was the UN that brought up the problems of the environment to begin with. Warning horns were first sounded in this building. If they are cutting down the rain forests in Brazil, it's going to affect storms on the east coast of the US, and crops in Africa. Everything is interlinked and now people are just beginning to understand that. Governments are now realizing that they can't take care of their own people unless they cooperate globally. The ozone-layer problem was not created by one country, and it is affecting all of us, all of our children and grandchildren. A country cannot stop an epidemic by closing its borders. You can't build walls around your country to keep diseases out. The same goes for terrorism, and narcotics trafficking. These are things we have to work together on. That's what this place exists for," she says.

"If the world decides to let this organization die, they'll immediately make another one just like it because the real problems in the world today are global."

Foa, who is her childhood worked as a babysitter to buy trees in Israel (and since has made numerous visits to look for her trees), fell in love, is buying an apartment in Jaffa and making aliyah. She plans to live there when she retires, and write a book. "I'm looking forward to 'coming home,'" she says. Watch out! Jaffa will never be the same.

Post-apartheid environmental problems

ACCORDING to a Canadian Research group working in South Africa, that country has inherited some of the world's most severe environmental problems. A good many of the most pressing problems stem from the former apartheid system wherein 80 percent of the population were crowded into the so-called townships created for the black people. These enclaves comprised only 13 percent of the area of the country and this led to drastic overcrowding which resulted in the total degradation of the environment.

Today these areas are virtually deforested, seriously eroded, water sources are polluted, and the soil is on the borderline of being non-arable. In addition, those black residents who did come into the cities were classed as "sojourners," and their residence was considered to be temporary. Therefore, no effort was made to provide infrastructure in the slums into which they moved.

Today these areas are filled to overflowing with people who have no access to sanitary

EARTHLY CONCERNS D'VORA BEN SHAUL

facilities or clean water, and in some places these teeming areas pose a threat to the entire water system of the area. Bad farming practices, on the part of both black and white farmers, has furthermore led to the loss of some 400 million tons of topsoil a year over more than a decade. This situation is rapidly causing soil depletion and diminishing crop yields.

Industry also received the attention of the Canadian team, which found that most of South Africa's factories are using out-of-date equipment and causing undue air and water pollution. Power plants are almost all coal-burning and lack proper smokestacks and pollution preventing scrubbers. But repairing the damage, and, at the same time, preventing further deterioration is going to be a job that could challenge South Africa's governments for generations to come. The white farmers

are set in the ways handed down to them by their forefathers and are slow to accept change; the black farmers are equally reluctant to see the advantage of new agricultural techniques.

As for industry, marginal profits and a lack of cash flow caused by former long-term sanctions make investment in environment protecting systems almost out of financial reach. But in addition to all this, while the white citizens seem to see conservation as a matter of wild-life reservations only, the black population have a long history of having seen "conservation" as simply another way to force them off their land.

Despite all this, efforts are being made and today South Africa recycles more materials than any other country - including glass, plastic, paper, aluminum, and even tin. And at the same time, environmental studies are being introduced into all branches of the school system. Even so, the road ahead is long and beset by a lot of problems that Nelson Mandela's government urgently needs to confront.



A five-year-old girl walks through an unsavory area of Johannesburg. (AP)

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Monday, December 16, 1996

Ministers still revising cuts, two days after deadline

FOUR ministries were still revising their 1997 budget-cut proposals last night, two days after the government-imposed deadline had expired.

DAVID HARRIS

Netanyahu will continue his series of budget meetings tomorrow, before he grants his approval. This will then enable the introduction of the new proposals to the Knesset...

Ravitz: Health fund pact imminent

EVELYN GORDON

AN agreement among the Treasury, the Health Ministry, and the health funds on proposed changes in the National Health Law now seems likely...

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Elbit, Bezeq, and Tadiran yesterday launched Netor, a Hebrew-language Internet service replacing a more limited service called TV-Tel.

Flour prices rose by 5.51 percent this morning, in accordance with an agreement between Finance Minister Dan Meridor and Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky.

Hapoalim: Tsubari 'victims' get NIS12m.

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

BANK Hapoalim has decided to compensate provident fund investors with NIS 12 million to cover damages as a result of the illegal use of their investments in 1994.

Israel Electric Corporation TENDER. The Israel Electric Corporation announces a single-stage, international tender. Includes table with columns: TENDER, DESCRIPTION, COST OF TENDER DOCUMENTS, INC. VAT (NON-RETURNABLE).

Avis sees 10% sales growth here in '97

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

AVIS Israel expects a 10 percent growth in 1997, yesterday said Isaac Weitz, managing director of the Dan Rent-A-Car company...

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS. Table with columns: Currency (deposit for), 3 MONTHS, 6 MONTHS, 12 MONTHS. Includes sub-tables for Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates and CHECKS AND TRANSFERS.

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Holiday season dampens futures trading

Banker for oil deals in Turkey

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Holiday season dampens futures trading

COMMODITIES ROUNDUP

NEW YORK - Precious metals closed mixed on Friday, with February gold futures slightly soft in a quiet and featureless trading session.

Sources pointed out that underlying reasons could be the upcoming holiday season, as well as rumors that the European Central Bank would be selling gold in the near future in order to cover deficits, amid budgetary concerns.

March silver also ended slightly lower in very thin and featureless trading.

On the close, February gold lost 40 cents, closing at \$370.40, while March silver ended down 1 cent at \$4.85.

High grade copper futures traded lower on Friday as the London Metal Exchange (LME) copper stock report came out higher than expected.

March copper futures closed down 40 basis points at \$0.9930.

Speculator buying and buy stops caused the world sugar market to settled higher on the day, with the March futures closing up 27 points at 10.73 cents.

There was no new fundamental news and an analyst commented that the sugar market is looking bearish and countries that were importers last year would be exporters this year.

March cotton futures settled 35 points lower at 76.10 cents on commercial trade selling, floor sources said.

Analysts thought that Thursday's US Department of Agriculture report and export sales report proved to be slightly bearish for the market.

Energy futures closed sharply higher on thin volume ahead of the weekend, as the weather forecast continues to effect the market.

Tanker for Iraqi oil docks in Turkey

CEYHAN, Turkey (Reuters) - An oil tanker to load the first Iraqi crude to be exported through Turkey in six years docked in the southern Turkish port of Ceyhan about midway on Saturday, witnesses said.

Turkish Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan is to attend a ceremony at Ceyhan today to celebrate the resumption of the flow of oil under the UN "oil-for-food" deal with Iraq.

After clearance from UN Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali last Monday, oil began flowing to Ceyhan this week through a 986-km. pipeline from the Iraqi oil city of Kirkuk.

ICE

(Continued from Page 1) death, unless a state physician gives permission otherwise, such as circumstances which necessitate an autopsy. Cremation is banned by Jewish law.

Hevra Kadisha representative Rabbi Nahum Hacobee Kook insisted that Astrovsky had no intention of being buried in an iceberg.

"The deceased, while she was alive, bought a burial plot near other family members, in the haredi section of the Holon cemetery," he said. "This was her wish and her last will and testament, and to be buried in a grave in a cemetery. We came from earth and return to the earth."

However, Hacobee Kook added, he would take into consideration "the sensitive mental state of Moshe and Rabel Be'eri, and will try to compromise as much as possible within certain limits."

As a compromise among all the parties, it was decided that if the Alaskan government does not agree to the strange request, the Hevra Kadisha may agree to bury the body in formalin and ice.

Meanwhile, Alaskan authorities can expect the request today, and will have to decide if they wish to bury the body of an Israeli woman in one of the state's icebergs.

Boeing in \$13.3b. deal to buy McDonnell Douglas

WASHINGTON (AP) - Boeing Co. will buy McDonnell Douglas to form the world's largest aerospace company under a \$13.3 billion deal announced by the companies yesterday.

If approved by federal regulators, the combined company under Boeing's name would have annual sales of \$48 billion, and be headquartered in Seattle, where Boeing is based. St. Louis-based McDonnell Douglas would continue to operate under its own name as a major division of Boeing.

Philip Condit, president and chief executive officer of Boeing, called it "an historic moment in aviation and aerospace."

The new company will be the largest, strongest, broadest, most admired aerospace corporation in the world and by far the largest US exporter, said John McDonnell, chairman of the board of McDonnell Douglas.

The combined company will have operations across the spectrum of aerospace, from commercial aircraft to military planes to space satellites and launch vehicles.

The company will have a workforce of nearly 200,000 workers and major operations in 26 states. Although some consolidation of corporate headquarters staff was anticipated, both companies said they are in a growth mode so that no major layoffs were expected, at least in the immediate future.

"The greatest strength of this combination is our people," Condit said.

Although the companies characterized it as a merger, the terms clearly show Boeing is buying McDonnell. McDonnell shareholders will receive Boeing stock worth \$13.3b. McDonnell's operations will be merged into Boeing's, the McDonnell name will not be part of the new company, and the top officer and two-thirds of the board of directors will be Boeing people.

Some of the major Boeing programs include Boeing 777 and 747 commercial airliners, the F-22 fighter, the AWACS radar plane, the Comanche helicopter and portions of the space shuttle.

McDonnell Douglas programs include the MD-11 civilian airliner, the Navy F-18 fighter, the Air Force F-15 fighter, the Delta III launch vehicle, the C-17 cargo plane.

In addition to Seattle and St. Louis, the newly formed company would have major operations in Wichita, Kansas; Long Beach, California, Philadelphia and other cities.

The announcement comes two weeks after the two companies announced they would team up on a new wide-body commercial airplane project. It also follows a key Pentagon decision that excluded McDonnell Douglas from the competition to build the new Joint Strike Fighter. Boeing was chosen as one of the two finalists to develop the fighter.

Agreement on opening Japan insurance sector Rubin: US economy fine despite stock dip

TOKYO (Reuters) - Japan and the US reached an agreement on Saturday on how Japan should open its insurance industry to foreign competitors, an esoteric row that grew into a major political issue between the two countries.

Washington had charged that Japan was trying to keep the bulk of its \$400 billion insurance market closed while trying to open up to Japanese firms the one niche in the sector where foreign companies had gained a foothold.

US President Bill Clinton recently called it the biggest trade issue between the world's two economic superpowers and outgoing Secretary of State Warren Christopher even called Japanese Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda earlier on Saturday to underline how seriously the issue was viewed in Washington.

The deal came just as Acting US Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky was getting ready to board a plane at Tokyo's Narita Airport after meeting Japanese Finance Minister Hiroshi Mitsuizuka a day before the self-imposed deadline expired yesterday.

"The fact that the long insurance talks were settled peacefully was good for Japan-US relations," Mitsuizuka told reporters at a hastily arranged news conference.

A key issue in the dispute was Japan's reluctance to open the main primary life and casualty insurance sectors to outside companies while wanting to allow more domestic firms into a niche market where foreign firms have an edge.

Washington has argued that a 1994 agreement calls for Tokyo to deregulate the primary sector, which is dominated by Japanese companies, before unleashing competition in the tiny specialty market.

Mitsuizuka declined to give details of the agreement, saying the exact wording was still being discussed. A senior Finance Ministry official later told reporters it was agreed that Japanese life insurers' non-life subsidiaries can sell personal accident insurance, one part of the niche market, from January 1, 1997.

But he said measures will be provided to protect foreign insurers from "radical changes" in the business environment.

Industry analysts have said Washington's demands are just one part of a deregulation likely to transform the Japanese insurance industry.

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Despite recent volatility in the stock market, Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin said on Saturday that stock prices over the long run will reflect the health and future prospects for the economy, which he said were good.

Rubin said Clinton administration economic policymakers were not monitoring financial markets any more than usual even though stock prices took a roller coaster ride last week.

"What we're focused on is doing what we think is right for the long-term economic growth of this country," Rubin said in an interview on CNN's Evans and Novak program.

"While the markets undoubtedly will fluctuate around ... I think that on balance the economic outlook is very good."

After gaining more than 91 points in the first two days of the week, the Dow Jones Industrial Average tumbled sharply in the next two and then gyrated wildly within a 93-point range on Friday. On balance, it lost a net 77 points in the week.

Rubin attributed much of the economy's recent strength to "fiscal discipline," and said the Clinton administration was committed to balancing the federal budget.

He echoed President Bill Clinton's view that any constitu-

tional amendment to require a balanced budget must be flexible enough to accommodate changes in the economy, but added he could not imagine any way of accomplishing that.

"I don't think that you can draft something that will adequately protect you against the dangers of a balanced budget amendment," he said.

"The commitment we have to a balanced budget," he added, "I do not believe we should put any form of a balanced budget amendment in place."

A balanced budget amendment failed to make it through the Senate last year by one vote. With Republicans having added to their Senate majority in last month's elections, the measure may have enough support to pass Congress.

House Budget Committee Chairman John Kasich told John McLaughlin's One on One television program a vote on the balanced budget amendment would be "close. But I think at the end of the day we will have enough votes to do it this time."

Rubin held out the possibility that the administration may accept Republican proposals to cut capital gains taxes. Kasich said he was fairly confident a capital gains tax cut would be agreed, according to excerpts of the program.

Shares end lower ahead of CPI

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

DAN GERSTENFELD
Two-Sided Index: 205.69 (-0.58%)
Maof Index: 213.74 (-0.58%)

SHARES closed lower yesterday ahead of the release of November's consumer price index, traders said. The CPI, announced after the close of trading, rose 0.6 percent against a rise of 0.8% in October.

The Two-Sided Index fell 0.58%, or 1.20 points, to 205.69 on all-share turnover of NIS 70 million against NIS 90m. on Thursday. The Maof Index lost 0.56% to 213.74.

"Activity declined today because the market was awaiting the CPI release. The market was expecting a rise of 0.5 to 0.7%.

A higher figure would have been very disappointing," one trader said yesterday.

"Several investors were taking profits today, but the market is still very strong," said Zvi Hoffman at Meitav Investments and Securities.

"The market is nervous as investors wait for political developments. Investors are also worried because of the instability of Wall Street," Hoffman added.

Supersol lost 0.25% to 7,909.5 after it said it is exploring acquiring Shekem's supermarket business. Shekem surged 6.0% to 0.45, while Elco Holdings, Shekem's parent company, rose 3.5% to 8.775.

The most active shares were Bezeq Israel Telecom, which fell 1.0% to 781 on volume of NIS 2.7m.; Formula Systems, which gained 1.75% to 2.884 on turnover of NIS 2.5m.; and Teva Pharmaceutical Industries, which lost 0.5% to 151,061 on volume of NIS 2.4m.

Traders said Formula traded heavily in response to an announcement last week that the company planned to float shares in the US.

TENSIONS

(Continued from Page 1) of two members of the Tzur family, who were gunned down outside Beit El last week by terrorists from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP).

Netanyahu also expressed sorrow for the killing of Palestinian worker by an Israeli farmer in the Negev last week, the statement from the Prime Minister's Office said.

Privately, Arafat has voiced anger at demands he consistently condemn Palestinian killings of Israelis, saying that neither Netanyahu nor other cabinet ministers have ever publicly condemned Israeli killings of Palestinians.

In their phone conversation, Arafat told Netanyahu that he has demanded the PFLP stop its terrorism.

In a related matter, Col. Jibril Rajoub, head of the Palestinian Preventive Security Service in the West Bank, said his men have arrested dozens of PFLP members.

He said mug shots of the PFLP suspects are to be given to Israel for Yoel Tzur to try to identify his attackers, but that Israel's demands for their extradition would be denied.

"We will never hand over anyone to the Israelis," Rajoub told the Associated Press. "We have our own courts and process. We will prosecute those responsible," he said.

Military sources say they have yet to receive any mug shots from the Palestinians.

Earlier in the day, Arafat and Netanyahu traded charges that the other side was engaged in hostile activity. "There is clear information that the Palestinian side - senior elements in the Palestinian side - have been planning, without connection to the cabinet decision, for weeks; planning another wave of violence," Netanyahu said, alluding to the September outbreak following the opening of an exit to the Western Wall Tunnel.

Arafat was quoted by Yediot Aharanit yesterday as saying Jewish settlement is a time bomb, and Netanyahu has turned to "cheap propaganda" because he knows this. He called allegations that he was plotting violence "nonsense."

The Palestinian leader told reporters in Gaza yesterday: "As for the statements of the Israeli prime minister today that we are preparing to wage war on them, this is untrue and aims at diverting attention from what he is preparing to do against us ... This government does not want peace."

Netanyahu said the opposition should instead be attacking the clear attempt by the Palestinian Authority to ignite the area.

Meanwhile, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai dismissed Palestinian warnings that supporting settlement expansion would gravely endanger the peace, saying the government would go ahead with the strengthening of Jewish settlements.

"We are aware of the threats and threats won't deter us. We advise the other side not to threaten us and to continue with the [peace] process which we have started," Mordechai said. "Together with this we have said time and again that settlement in Judea, Samaria, and the Gaza District is determined by the government of Israel and deserves to be supported."

Mordechai made the statements, after a meeting yesterday with settler leaders, followed by a one-hour condolence call in Beit El. Mordechai said that he is not planning to visit the West Bank.

TEL AVIV STOCKS

Multi-sided trading
Two-sided trading
Commercial Banks: Yarnat, Harel, Lishan, etc.
Industrials: Yarnat, Harel, Lishan, etc.
Mortgage Banks & Financials: Yarnat, Harel, Lishan, etc.
Trade & Services: Yarnat, Harel, Lishan, etc.
Oil Exploration: Yarnat, Harel, Lishan, etc.
Parallels List: Yarnat, Harel, Lishan, etc.

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Israel blanks Luxembourg

Eli Ohana knocks in lone goal in unimpressive match

DEREK FATTAL

A LATE first-half goal from the boot of veteran Eli Ohana was enough to secure a vital 1-0 Israeli victory over Luxembourg...

With 83 appearances will have drawn more satisfaction with his side's showing. The match started at breakneck pace as the Israelis sought to get an early goal by racing at their opponents...

play followed during which the inept Israelis were caught offside every time they went forward, partly due to excellent defensive marshalling by the tall figure of Metz central defender Jeff Strasser...

In answering questions from the press about Israel's listless performance Scharf responded, "We were badly rattled after the defeat by Cyprus. The players have lost confidence and have not played well lately..."

Group five standings table with columns for GP, W, D, L, GF, GA, Pts. Includes teams like Russia, Israel, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Luxembourg.

Ramat Gan shocks Galil Elyon

ELI GRONER

THE National Basketball League reached the midway point of the season as two makeup games from earlier in the season were played. Maccabi Ramat Gan made a strong statement by thrashing Galil Elyon...

rebounded their northern counterpart. The Ramat Gan superiority was apparent from the outset as it jumped out of the gate to leads of 7-0 and 16-5...

game lead over second-place Hapoel Jerusalem, while Herzliya moved into eighth place. The National Basketball League now begins its midseason break. Games will resume on January 12...

National Basketball League table with columns for W, L, Pts. Includes teams like Maccabi Tel Aviv, Hapoel Jerusalem, Galil Elyon, etc.



EASY DOES IT - Philadelphia's Lucious Harris (left) and Atlanta's Mookie Blylock fight for a rebound in the second period of Saturday's game at the Omni in Atlanta.

EASY DOES IT - Philadelphia's Lucious Harris (left) and Atlanta's Mookie Blylock fight for a rebound in the second period of Saturday's game at the Omni in Atlanta.

Sabres skate past listless Bruins

BOSTON (Reuters) - Dominik Hasek recorded his fourth shutout of the season and Michal Grosek scored twice to lead the Buffalo Sabres to a 4-0 victory Saturday over the Boston Bruins...

wins at Boston. "The Bruins are playing like they don't want it right now. I don't know what's going on with Boston," said Sabres' Brian Holzinger. "I can't understand why they're playing the way they are. They have some good players, but they've just outlasted them..."

Hasek needed during a two-man advantage at 3:12 of the first period. Grosek scored twice in the third period to give Buffalo breathing room. Kings 4, Capitals 4. Philippe Boucher and Brad Smyth scored in the first period as the Los Angeles Kings pulled its goalender for an extra attacker as the Kings rallied for a tie with Washington...

Sunderland shuts out Chelsea 3-0

LONDON (Reuters) - Chelsea's bleak winter continued when they lost 3-0 to Sunderland in the Premier League yesterday. Chelsea, whose talent-laden side started the season brightly, have now gone five premier games without a win. Their last league victory was over Manchester United at Old Trafford on November 2...

Rockets rush by SuperSonics

SEATTLE (Reuters) - Charles Barkley had 26 points and 15 rebounds and Clyde Drexler added 23 points as the Houston Rockets snipped a 13-game losing streak against the Seattle SuperSonics Saturday with a 109-100 road victory. The Rockets (20-2) improved to 10-1 on the road this season. Hakeem Olajuwon had nine points and 10 rebounds for Houston, which had not won in Seattle since April 17, 1993. Shawn Kemp had 28 points and 10 rebounds and Gary Payton added 16 points and five assists for the SuperSonics (16-9), last year's NBA Championship runners-up.

EASTERN CONFERENCE table with columns for W, L, Pts. Includes teams like Miami, New York, Orlando, Washington, Philadelphia, New Jersey, Cleveland, Chicago, Detroit, Toronto.

WESTERN CONFERENCE table with columns for W, L, Pts. Includes teams like Houston, Utah, Dallas, Minnesota, Denver, San Antonio, Vancouver, L.A. Lakers, Phoenix.

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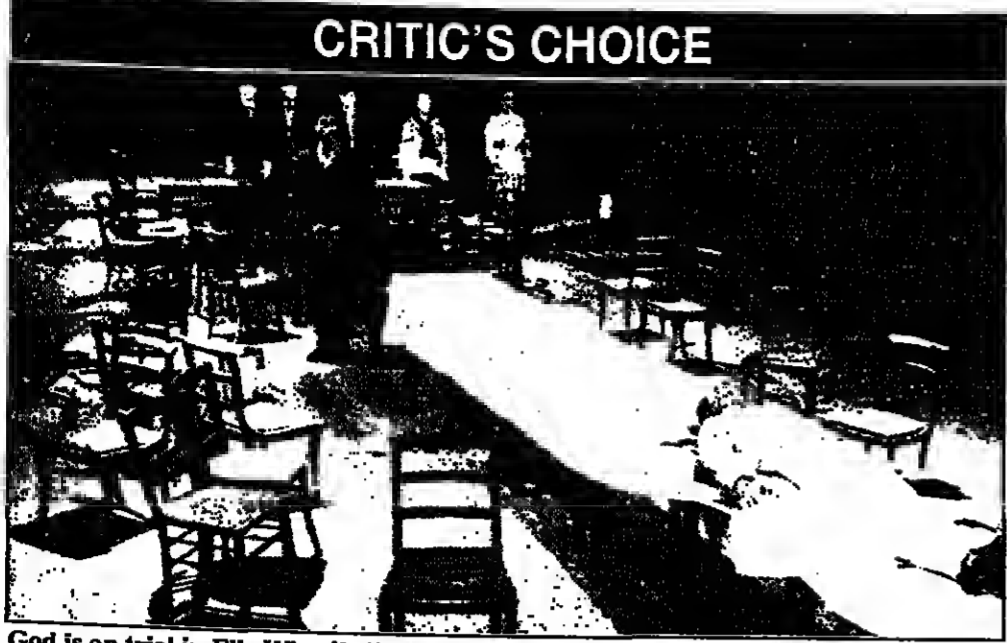
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Bears squash Chargers' playoff chances

CHICAGO (AP) - Dave Krieg threw three short touchdown passes and the Chicago Bears all but eliminated San Diego from the playoff race Saturday night, beating the stumping Chargers 27-14. San Diego (7-8) has lost three straight and will be out of the postseason if Indianapolis wins Sunday in Kansas City.

second's elapsed in the fourth quarter. "Jeff Jaeger's 45-yard field late in the third gave Chicago (7-8) a 17-14 lead. He added a line drive 40-yarder with 1:04 left. Krieg, 14-4 as a starter against the Chargers in his long career, completed 24 of 38 passes for 217 yards."

SPORTS BRIEFS: Bowe wins again on Golota's disqualification. For the second time in five months Riddick Bowe, behind on all three judges' scorecards, benefitted from Andrew Golota's uncontrollable penchant for throwing low blows and won on disqualification on Saturday. Golota had a point deducted for an intentional head butt in the second round, lost another point for a low blow in the fourth round and was disqualified at 2:58 of the ninth round after sending Bowe to the canvas with another low blow. Bowe, 29, improved to 40-1, while Golota slipped to 28-2. Reuter.



God is on trial in Elie Wiesel's 'The Schangorod Trial'

CLASSICAL MUSIC

PHILIPPE Entremont leads the orchestra in Ravel's Le Tombeau de Couperin and Bizet's First Symphony.

BARITONE Yaron Wodmueller and pianist Daniel Gortler perform Brahms's Schoene Magelona today (5) at the Henry Crown Symphony Hall in Jerusalem.

MUSICA NOVA presents an open stage tomorrow (3) at the Music Hall in Jaffa.

THEATER

GERMAN-SPEAKERS rejoice - the New Theater from Halle, Germany, is at the Camer Theater with The Schangorod Trial.

Against the background of a pogrom in 1649, which leaves only a handful of survivors, three actors make a Purimspiel and put God on trial for his indifference to the suffering of the Jewish people.

nation of Satan. This is a different kind of courtroom thriller that bed German audiences gasping.

LEONARD Bernstein would approve of what director/choreographer Danni Sayers has done with the joint Habimah/Haifa Theater production of West Side Story.

The dancing and singing are crisp and lively, the actors believable, the set marvelous and the music, oh! the music that tugs at the mind and the heart.

TELEVISION

ELANA CHIPMAN

In 1985 the Greenpeace protest ship Rainbow Warrior was sabotaged and sunk by the French secret service in the ocean off New Zealand.

Ten years later, his 18-year-old daughter Maria went to the scene of the disaster in order to find out what the French were really trying to hide.

TELEVISION

CHANNEL 1 8:31 News in Arabic 6:45 Exercise Hour 7:00 Good Morning, Israel

CABLE

ITV 3 (33) 16:00 Canons 16:30 Things Which Can't Be Sold

CHANNEL 2

13:00 Males A Wish 13:30 Basic Arabic 14:00 Echo Talk

CHANNEL 4

15:30 Tinytown Tales 15:50 Body 16:00 The Mysterious Island

ARABIC PROGRAMS

18:30 Sport 19:00 News

HEBREW PROGRAMS

19:30 News flash 19:31 The Simpsons 20:00 News

CHANNEL 5

13:00 Males A Wish 13:30 Basic Arabic 14:00 Echo Talk

JORDAN TV

14:05 Muppet Show 14:30 Dad's Army 15:00 French programs

MIDDLE EAST TV

7:00 Quantum Shopping 8:00 TV Shop 14:00 700 Club

WHERE TO GO

Notices in this feature are charged at NIS2.06 per line, including VAT.

JERUSALEM

Conducted Tours HEBREW UNIVERSITY. Tours of the Mount Scopus campus.

HAIFA

HADASSAH. Visit the Hadassah installations, Chegal Windows.

TEL AVIV

MUSEUM. Following the Shock Graffiti in Yitzhak Rabin Square.

CHILDREN

6:30 Cartoons 6:00 Cune Meno 9:30 The Center of Things

CHANNEL 5

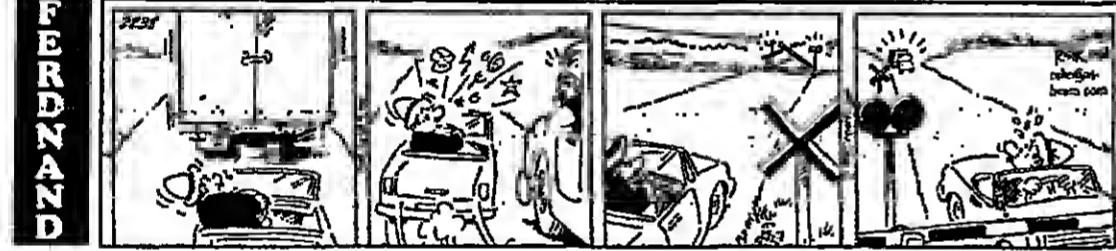
6:30 Bodies in Motion 16:00 Basketball - Maccabi Ramat Gan

CHANNEL 5

6:30 Bodies in Motion 16:00 Basketball - Maccabi Ramat Gan

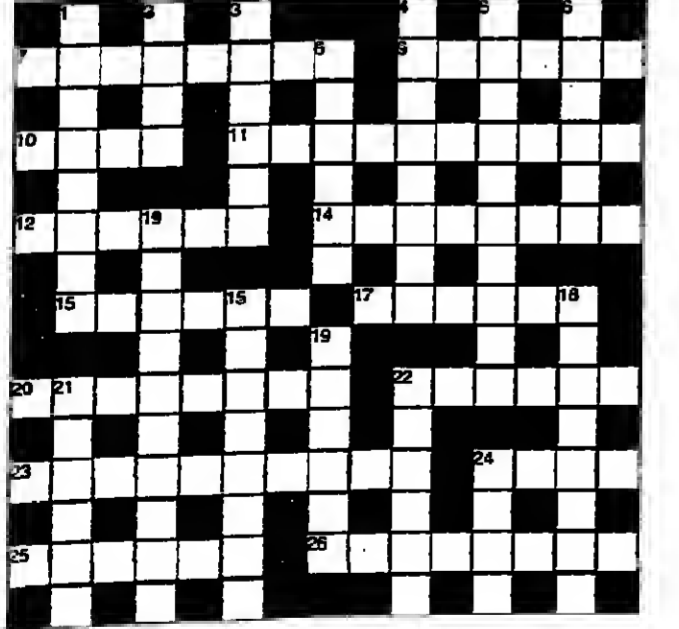
EUROSPORT

9:30 Biathlon: World Cup, Norway (ppt)



CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

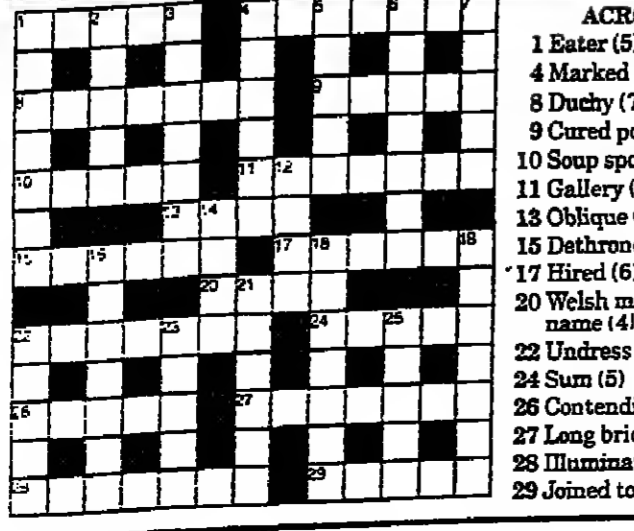
ACROSS 7 One preserving body of yours truly in decorated marble (8)



SOLUTIONS

STATEMENT OF I AM A DEVIANT I AM A DEVIANT I AM A DEVIANT

QUICK CROSSWORD



- ACROSS 1 Eater (5) 4 Marked (7) 8 Duchy (7) 9 Cured pork (5) 10 Soup spoon (5) 11 Gallery (anag.) (7) 13 Oblique (4) 15 Dethrone (6) 17 Hired (6) 20 Welsh man's name (4) 22 Undress (7) 24 Sum (5) 26 Contending (5) 27 Long bridge (7) 28 Illuminate (7) 29 Joined together (5)

Center of Things 15:15 Pink Panther Show 15:50 Ocean Girl 18:15 The Center of Things

SECNDND SHOWING (5) 22:00 Patis Apocalypse (French, 1992) - satire of the European Left after the fall of Communism

DISCOVERY (5) 6:00 Open University: Dynamics of Quality Control: Dilemmas in Medicine

STAR PLUS 6:00 Nathalie Dupree Cooks 6:30 Video Fashion News 7:00 Kate and Alie 7:30 Oprah Winfrey

CHANNEL 5 6:30 Bodies in Motion 16:00 Basketball - Maccabi Ramat Gan vs. Gail Dyonit

EUROSPORT 9:30 Biathlon: World Cup, Norway (ppt)

CHANNEL 1 8:31 News in Arabic 6:45 Exercise Hour 7:00 Good Morning, Israel

CINEMA

JERUSALEM CINEMATHEQUE The Real Schlemiel 5 * Three Films Based on Stories by Eliezer Keret 9:30

TEL AVIV CINEMATHEQUE Devarim 5 7:30 5: * The American Friend 8:30

JERUSALEM HADASSAH Ein Korem (Internal, surgery, orthopedics)

TEL AVIV MEDICAL CENTER Dana Podiatry Hospital (pediatrics), Tel Aviv Medical Center (Internal, surgery)

HAIFA CINECAMA CAFE AMAMI * 8:25-7:55 La Affina Elettriva

TEL AVIV CINEMATHEQUE Devarim 5 7:30 5: * The American Friend 8:30

HAIFA CINECAMA CAFE AMAMI * 8:25-7:55 La Affina Elettriva

HAIFA CINECAMA CAFE AMAMI * 8:25-7:55 La Affina Elettriva

US Reform lay leaders reject interfaith weddings

MARILYN HENRY and DAVID MAKOVSKY

THE national board of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, which is the lay leadership of the US Reform Movement, on Saturday night overwhelmingly rejected a resolution that would have called on Reform rabbis to officiate at interfaith weddings.

The resolution would have set the Reform laity against its clergy. The movement's Central Conference of American Rabbis relies on a 23-year-old measure that, in principle, opposes its rabbis' participation in "any ceremony which solemnizes a mixed marriage." However, many Reform rabbis already perform interfaith weddings.

The Reform Movement is planning a massive campaign for recognition of its conversions in Israel, and it had been feared that the UAHC resolution would have undercut the movement's efforts to gain legitimacy.

Meanwhile, two members of the Ministerial Committee on Conversions yesterday came out in favor of changing a bill to bar Israelis and their spouses from undergoing Conservative and Reform conversions abroad.

Interior Minister Eli Suissa (Shas) and Transportation Minister Yitzhak Levy (National Religious Party) would be altering the compromise which Prime Minister Binjamin Netanyahu favors.

In a speech carried by satellite to delegates at the General Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations in Seattle last month, Netanyahu indicated he did not want to pass any law to curb Conservative and Reform conversions abroad.

He made it clear that he would

oppose efforts by any Orthodox MKs — who do not recognize Conservative and Reform conversions — to do so, so as not to damage the Law of Return issue.

At the same time, Netanyahu made it clear that the law would not permit Conservative and Reform conversions to be performed in Israel. Netanyahu has defended both moves as codifying existing practices, which he said are consistent with the religious status quo.

At a meeting last Sunday of the ministerial panel on conversions, Suissa and Levy sought to persuade the other members to change the bill's language so it would forbid Israelis and their spouses from obtaining conversions abroad and thereby somewhat limit the scope of Reform and Conservative conversions.

One group that would be hit by the Suissa-Levy proposal would be immigrants from the former Soviet Union, who live in Israel but whose spouses often have not been recognized as Jews.

Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein (Yisrael Ba'Aliya) said he is somewhat wary of the Suissa-Levy idea.

"I have not rejected their ideas yet, but I want to make sure that there is not a broad definition that hurts the Conservative and Reform movements or has an impact on the Law of Return," he said.

The ministerial panel, which is headed by Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi, decided last week that it also would bar Conservative and Reform conversions in the territories to block Conservative and Reform rabbis from performing conversions under the Palestinian Authority.



Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani (right) strolls beside newly appointed Police Deputy Inspector-General Gabi Last (center) and his replacement as Tel Aviv police chief, Cmdr. Shlomo Aharonishy, after a changing of the guard ceremony yesterday in Tel Aviv. Other senior personnel changes are expected in the force shortly, especially following the resignation of Jerusalem chief Cmdr. Arye Amit.

Canadian officials to take testimony from Nazi hunter, witnesses

ROBERT SARNER and STEVE LEIBOWITZ

SENIOR officials from Canada's Justice Department and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) Special War Crimes Unit have arranged to meet with a New York detective this week to receive evidence, including secretly recorded confessions, on the presence of scores of suspected Nazi war criminals in Canada.

The meeting on Thursday in Montreal between private investigator Steve Rambam and Canadian authorities follows recent reports in *The Jerusalem Post* and on Israel Television's IBA News on his findings, which prompted Justice Minister Allan Rock to invite Rambam to present his evidence to Ottawa.

Canadian Jewish leader Bernie Farber, prominent historian Irving Abella, and the head of the Israeli office of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, Efraim Zuroff, will also participate in the meeting. The writers of this article are to be called as material witnesses in part of the original investigation.

Rambam is to hand over secretly taped inter-

views with alleged Nazi war criminals, which he conducted while posing as a visiting professor from a fictitious university.

Representing Ottawa at the meeting will be Paul Vickery, who heads the Justice Department's War Crimes Unit, and his counterpart at the RCMP, Inspector Jean Dube. Over the weekend, Vickery told the *Toronto Globe and Mail* that, "If in fact Rambam's interviews were able to be used in court and they were accepted, then they could well tip the balance [in ongoing investigations]."

Wiesenthal Center founder and Dean Rabbi Marvin Hier urged Rock last week to move quickly against three men implicated in Rambam's investigation. "We believe that [Rambam's work] constitutes important evidence regarding crimes committed by individ-

uals currently residing in Canada," Hier wrote in a letter to Rock.

"We therefore urge you to take whatever measures are necessary to insure that this important information is reviewed promptly so that it can be fully utilized to bring those guilty of perpetuating the crimes of the Holocaust to the bar of justice, either by prosecution for war crimes or by deportation for immigration violations."

Ottawa has long been criticized for not only admitting thousands of Nazi war criminals into Canada after World War II, but also for refusing for decades to bring them to justice despite repeated demands by Jewish groups. Only in the 1980s did Canada begin to conduct serious war crimes investigations.

Only one Nazi war criminal has ever been deported and another extradited, although an official government investigation has called for immediate legal action against 20 suspected Nazi war criminals and urged investigators to look more closely at 200 other suspects.

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WEATHER forecast for various locations including Haifa, Jerusalem, Beer Sheva, and Dead Sea. Includes a table for 'AROUND THE WORLD' with weather conditions for various cities like Amsterdam, Berlin, Buenos Aires, etc.

Kleiner: Inquire into Generali's non-payment of Holocaust victims' life insurance policies

DAVID HARRIS

THE chairman of the Knesset subcommittee on insurance affairs, Michael Kleiner (Likud-Gesher), is calling for an immediate inquiry into the alleged failure of Assicurazioni Generali to pay out on life insurance policies of Jews killed in the Holocaust.

Italian-based Generali, one of Europe's largest insurers, is currently in the process of purchasing Bank Leumi's controlling share in Migdal Insurance, a deal which has yet to receive license approval from the Treasury.

Kleiner said he is disturbed by the claim of Martin Stern, whose grandfather Mor Stern perished in Auschwitz in 1944. In 1945, Mor's son attempted to claim on his father's policy, which had been taken out for Kr 30,000 in 1929, through the firm's Prague office.

However, Generali told him he would have to provide a death certificate.

Due to nationalization in Czechoslovakia, control of the company's Czech interests was removed from Generali, with its property being expropriated by the government.

After lengthy negotiations, the Czechs agreed to pay Generali some \$8 million for the property seized, money that Martin Stern

says should be paid to the families of Jews prevented from collecting on claims in the 1940s.

Generali vice-director Guido Pastori wrote to Stern last week, saying the company would not pay on the claim.

"We cannot entertain your suggestions, even on moral grounds," Pastori wrote.

The use of the term "moral grounds," was roundly condemned yesterday by Kleiner, who is calling for a team to be set up to investigate the incident and see if there are any other such claims.

The committee would comprise a lawyer and accountant, both appointed by the Israeli government, an independent journalist and a Generali representative, should the company be willing to participate.

Furthermore, Kleiner intends on holding a Knesset insurance subcommittee session on the issue, to which he would summon representatives of Migdal and Generali, together with Treasury-based Insurance Commissioner Doron Shorer.

In Kleiner's opinion, the inquiries must take a serious look at whether

Generali should make payments to families or the State of Israel, or at least make a gesture. That's something the company is currently considering, according to its Israeli legal representative Amihud Ben-Porat.

Kleiner has already turned to Shorer to ask his opinion on the issue, and while still awaiting a reply, said, "We agree on most matters, so I cannot see why we should disagree this time."

Despite repeated attempts to contact him, Shorer is refusing to discuss the issue with *The Jerusalem Post*.

"The Insurance Commissioner has nothing to do with this issue," Finance Ministry spokesman Eli Yosef said. "If Kleiner wants an answer from Shorer, he should write to him. Shorer will not give replies through the media."

The cash part of the Migdal deal, which amounts to some NIS 340m., is among the largest ever in the Israeli private sector.

While Generali still intends going ahead with the deal, one source within the company said that if the current unpleasantness escalates and becomes a political issue, it might be forced to reevaluate its investment plans.

Tribunal orders Horev court martial to continue

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

A MILITARY tribunal sitting in Tel Aviv yesterday rejected a petition by Col. Momi Horev to drop charges against him. The court ruled that his court-martial on charges he negligently caused the death of a soldier under his command in a training accident three years ago must proceed.

The precedent-setting court-martial, headed by Col. Oded Mudrik, did not accept Horev's arguments that the charges against him were not clear. It said that the court could not relieve Horev of responsibility without a trial and it could not clarify the full charges against him until the circumstances surrounding the accident were laid before the court in a trial.

Horev is being charged with four other Givati Brigade officers in the death of Givati Sgt. Yama Shoshan, who was mortally wounded when a fragmentation grenade went off in his webbing during training. Horev was Shoshan's brigade commander at the time.

A military investigation found that the February 1994 accident occurred because Shoshan was not aware of safety regulations. Horev

and the four other officers were charged with negligence for not ensuring regulations were followed.

The court martial is expected to decide for the first time whether a brigade commander is responsible for enforcing safety regulations or whether this responsibility lies with less senior officers.

The court martial, which follows persistent civilian court pressure being watched closely by senior officers, many of whom see it as a dangerous precedent of outsiders meddling in internal military affairs.

The court's decision yesterday also left open the possibility of separating Horev from the trial of the other four Givati officers. Last month, the High Court of Justice rejected a petition by Shoshan's parents against Horev's appointment as head of the officer training school.

The parents charged that allowing Horev to continue in his post was sending a message that officers can afford to be careless with their soldiers' lives. But the court sided in favor of the army, which reasoned that it was unfair to suspend Horev before the military

Winning cards

In yesterday's daily Chance drawing, the winning cards were the 7 of spades, the jack of hearts, the 10 of diamonds and the 9 of clubs.

GSS to get public spokesman for first time

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

IN a further step to lower its veil of secrecy, the General Security Service intends to appoint shortly its first official spokesman, who will act as its link with the public on matters of collaborator rehabilitation.

Sources in the Prime Minister's Office, which will remain responsible for all other official media links with the GSS, said the new spokesman will be a woman currently employed by the service. The spokesman's identity is expected to be announced within the next few weeks.

The spokesman will deal with the resettlement and rehabilitation of hundreds of former Palestinian informers. The GSS branch responsible for them has grown so much, that it is commanded by a person whose rank is equivalent to major general.

Among its tasks are finding former informers jobs and places to live.

"This is no doubt a precedent for the GSS, even if we are not talking of a spokesman for the GSS, but just a branch," one security source told Israel Radio.

Over the past year, the GSS has lost much of its secret image. Its former head, Ya'acov Perry, had his name splashed on the Internet and the current head, Ami Ayalon, is the first person in the top slot to be officially revealed.

But except for these two positions, the identities of all other employees in the GSS are still censored.

Moslem father demands to see daughter who fled to haredi home

DAVID RUDGE

THE Moslem father of a teenage girl who ran away from their Haifa home to reside with a haredi family yesterday pleaded to be allowed to see his daughter.

Fathi Darweesh informed police immediately after his 15-year-old daughter, Linda Darweesh, disappeared on November 13. Searches for the runaway lasted for just over a month, with police beginning to express concern for her safety. Linda, whose mother is Jewish, was found yesterday at the home of a haredi family in Haifa.

The Haifa police spokesman said the girl said she went to stay with the family of her own free will and does not want to return to her father.

However, because she is a minor her father is still her legal guardian. The Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs is attempting to resolve the case.

Darweesh said his daughter is one of three children born to himself and his Jewish ex-wife. The couple was divorced over 10 years ago and their three children remained with Darweesh, who remarried, as did his ex-wife, who now lives in Eilat.

Though their children are Jewish according to Halacha, Darweesh said they all are registered with the Interior Ministry as Moslem Arabs.

He said his eldest son is married and lives in an Arab village. After turning 18, the middle son had gone to live with his mother and become an orthodox Jew.

Darweesh claimed that since then his ex-wife's family — especially a son of hers from a previous marriage — had been "brainwashing" Linda to return to her Jewish religious roots.

"I'm happy that Linda has been found safe and well, but I'm distressed that she says she doesn't want to come home," Darweesh said. "I want the police and the social workers to carry out a thorough investigation into all the circumstances leading to her running away, and I want to be allowed to see her."

"I don't even know where she is, other than that she's with a haredi family in Haifa. I raised her since she was four years old after their mother gave her up. For nearly 12 years, she didn't see her mother, so how they can suddenly love her, I just don't know."

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